THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • APRIL 05, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianxpress twitter.com/newindianxpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

FACEBOOK DATA LEAK LEAVES 53 CRORE USERS VULNERABLE

Hackers posted user data, including phone numbers, biodata, locations, date of birth and some email IDs for free on a forum

61 LAKH INDIANS VULNERABLE TO CYBERATTACK

The leak, found by cyber intelligence firm Hudson Rock, has compromised the privacy and cybersecurity of 61 lakh Indians as well. The hackers siphoned off user data from 106 countries. The worst-hit was the US with 3.2 crore breaches, followed by the UK with 1.1 crore. Cybercriminals now have access to the data, which can be used to scam or impersonate users

FACEBOOK CLAIMS IT'S OLD DATA

- Facebook tried to downplay the situation with a spokesperson claiming the data in question is old and was first brought to its notice in 2019. It claimed that the issue was 'fixed' in August '19
- But Facebook remained tightlipped on what the 'fix' was. It was also silent on the ready availability of user data for hackers

87 million

USERS' DATA OBTAINED BY CAMBRIDGE ANALYTICA WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT IN 2013

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

K'taka rolls back gym shutdown order, allows 50 per cent capacity

Facilities that don't follow Covid-19 norms will be shut till situation improves, says order

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

AFTER softening its stand on occupancy at cinema theatres over Covid, the Karnataka Government on Sunday withdrew its prohibition on gyms too. In a fresh order, the State Government said gyms can remain open as long as they are functioning at 50 per cent capacity at all given times.

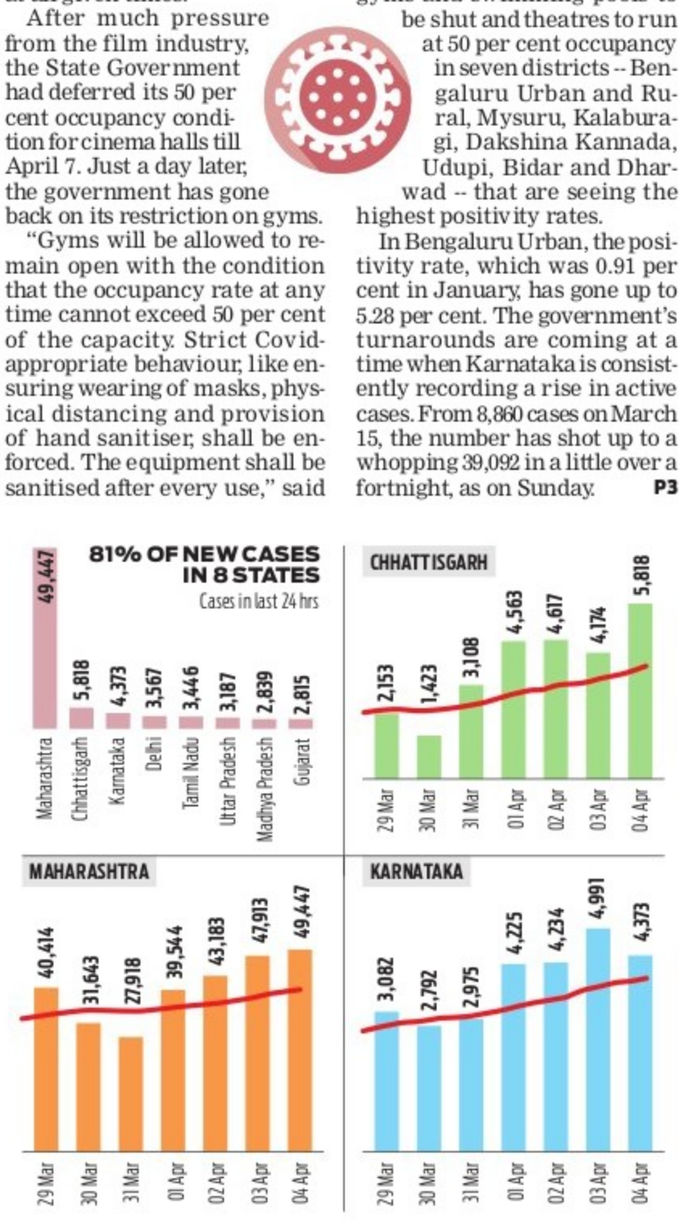
After much pressure from the film industry, the State Government had deferred its 50 per cent occupancy condition for cinema halls till April 7. Just a day later, the government has gone back on its restriction on gyms.

"Gyms will be allowed to remain open with the condition that the occupancy rate at any time cannot exceed 50 per cent of the capacity. Strict Covid-appropriate behaviour, like ensuring wearing of masks, physical distancing and provision of hand sanitiser, shall be enforced. The equipment shall be sanitised after every use," said a revised order signed by Chief Secretary P Ravikumar.

The order also warns that any violation of the condition will lead to the closure of such gyms till the pandemic is over.

The rollback on the closure of gyms comes two days after the State Government brought in fresh restrictions to curb the rising number of Covid cases. The initial order asked for all gyms and swimming pools to be shut and theatres to run at 50 per cent occupancy in seven districts -- Bengaluru Urban and Rural, Mysuru, Kalaburagi, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Bidar and Dharwad -- that are seeing the highest positivity rates.

In Bengaluru Urban, the positivity rate, which was 0.91 per cent in January, has gone up to 5.28 per cent. The government's turnarounds are coming at a time when Karnataka is consistently recording a rise in active cases. From 8,860 cases on March 15, the number has shot up to a whopping 39,092 in a little over a fortnight, as on Sunday. P3


81% OF NEW CASES IN 8 STATES
Cases in last 24 hrs
Maharashtra 49,447
Chhattisgarh 5,818
Karnataka 4,373
Delhi 3,567
Tamil Nadu 3,446
Uttar Pradesh 3,187
Madhya Pradesh 2,839
Gujarat 2,815
CHHATTISGARH
2,153 1,423 3,108 4,563 4,617 4,174 5,818
MAHARASHTRA
40,414 31,643 27,918 39,544 43,183 47,913 49,447
KARNATAKA
3,082 2,792 2,975 4,225 4,234 4,991 4,373
29 Mar 30 Mar 31 Mar 01 Apr 02 Apr 03 Apr 04 Apr

Night & weekend curfew in Maha

Reeling under the burden of daily case surge, the Maharashtra government on Sunday introduced a raft of strict measures like weekend and night curfews, but stopped short of a complete lockdown. The new measures include a weekend curfew, starting 8 pm on Friday to 7 am on Monday; and strict night restrictions between 8 pm and 7 am, starting Monday (April 5). Only essential services would be allowed to operate unhindered till April 30, after which the restrictions could be eased based on an assessment of the outcome of the measures. The decision was taken at an urgent cabinet meeting, during which Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray proposed a complete lockdown, an idea his colleagues opposed, pointing out its economic fallout. Based on the inputs, Thackeray also decided to impose restrictions on gatherings by promulgating CrPC Section 144, but made exemptions for commercial establishments and industries. NCP minister Nawab Malik said the decision was unanimous, and would be in force from April 5 to 30. "It is aimed at saving lives with minimal impact," Malik said.

PM seeks people's participation to fight pandemic

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

ON a day India reported 93,249 new Covid-19 cases and 513 deaths, Prime Minister Narendra Modi went into a huddle with top experts to chart out an action plan to curb the exponential infection growth.

Taking a grim view of the high case load and deaths in Maharashtra, Punjab and Chhattisgarh, Modi directed that central teams comprising public health specialists and clinicians be sent to these states to address the crisis.

The high-level meeting called by the PM was given a detailed presentation, which stated that 10 states are contributing more than 91 per cent of cases and deaths due to Covid-19. The experts attributed the rising trend to lapses in Covid protocol compliance, pandemic fatigue and a lack of effective implementation of containment measures at the field level.

Modi sought the rollout of a five-fold strategy of "Testing, Tracing, Treatment, Covid-appropriate behaviour and Vaccination" with a special campaign for 100 per cent mask usage, personal hygiene and sanitation at public places/workplaces and health facilities for seven days from April 6-14. He also emphasised on community awareness and its involvement in containing the infection.

"As of date, Maharashtra has contributed 57 per cent of total cases in the country in the last 14 days and 47 per cent of deaths in the country during the same period. Punjab has contributed 4.5 per cent of the total number of cases in the country in the last 14 days, besides 16.3 per cent of the total number of deaths," said a statement. The focus of the government is in line with its strategy in June-September last, which included ramping up healthcare infrastructure, availability of oxygen, ventilators, logistics and adopting clinical management protocols in hospitals along with in-home care. Modi specifically stressed on reducing fatalities. On vaccination, the government plans to share its daily analysis of performance with all states.

KEEPING POLLS CLEAN

Karnataka police personnel check vehicles heading towards Tamil Nadu, ahead of polls in that state, at the Attibele check-post on the outskirts of Bengaluru on Sunday | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

THE STRATEGIST AND THE VOTEBANK

THIS election is bipolar. I don't see anything else at the micro or macro level." That's one of Mamata Banerjee's key strategists airing his views, post two volatile phases of polling, with six more to go, a process that cumulatively promises to run a bleeding-edge scythe through West Bengal's political history.

Bengal, particularly Kolkata, is of course teeming with election strategists, free-floating analysts and sundry do-gooders. That's natural for a state with that kind of heightened political consciousness. But our man stands out for various reasons. For one, no one can be more free-floating than him—in an election where the 'outsider/insider' binary has been quite pronounced, he's an outsider on the inside, so to speak, having travelled across a few green fields, been on all sides, peddling his professional wares like a migrant labourer of strategic thought. And he has all the swagger of a new-age visionary.

It's quite a crowded field, though. Some have come to save Bengal from cultural corruption, others have come to rescue it from petty corruption—cut money, *tolabaaji* (extortion), political rent-seeking of many shades, all that. It has some benefits. The hotel industry and the fab cafes haven't seen such brisk business in the last 10 years

SANTWANA BHATTACHARYA

of Didi's rule. None of them will say *koro na* (don't do it) to this moveable feast, corona or no corona.

Among the migratory flocks, some of the busiest are those who make managing elections their raison d'etre. Like our man. Quite apolitical, they look at elections clinically, through the prism of personality cults, creation of catchphrases and hashtags—all with bands of young, outsourced volunteers.

"This election is about Mamata Banerjee," claims one such strategist, "nothing else matters." Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who's thundering forth from more rally pulpits here in Bengal than he may have spoken on some other delicate occasions, pretty much confirms that in his own way. He doesn't utter a line without mockingly invoking her, intoning the words "Arrey Didi...."

The strategist obviously thinks he knows the best. But Mamata, being the Didi that she is, can't be scripted to fit into any box—not even the one that's labelled *Banglar meye* (daughter of Bengal). She's too canny for that. In Cooch Behar, for instance, Mamata reminds voters: "This election is not about me. It is about saving Bengal." Cooch Behar (nine seats) and Alipurduar (five seats), up north, nestled along the restive Chicken's Neck, are going to polls on April 6.

CONTINUED ON: P7

EXPRESS READ

Investigators biased, says woman in CD row

Bengaluru: The woman, said to be involved in the CD row allegedly involving former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi, on Sunday accused the police of being biased, and voiced her grievances in a letter to Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant | P4

WITH THIS ISSUE
THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex
32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID), 4 OF CITY EXPRESS

CM refuses to react to Eshwarappa letter-gate

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa inaugurates a hostel in Kaginele Kanaka Guru Peetha in Belludi on Sunday, as RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa (right) looks on.

IN his first interaction with the media after Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister K S Eshwarappa's explosive letter, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa refused to react to the rebellion from within the senior party ranks.

The CM has remained tightlipped over the entire situation so far and is keen on letting it fade away from public memory, instead of responding to it despite direct allegations being levelled against him.

"I have not responded earlier. Will not respond now either," was Yediyurappa's stance when asked about Eshwarappa's allegations against him.

The CM was speaking to reporters outside his official residence Cauveri on Sunday morning, before starting to Belludi in Davanagere district, where he finally came face to face with Eshwarappa and exchanged greetings. The interaction between the two leaders was limited to a short greeting for the entire event. A miffed Yediyurappa is said to have been assured of action by the Central leadership of the BJP, but only after the bypolls. Party sources said the letter-gate will be handled internally by the party, despite Eshwarappa insisting that it was a matter related to the government. Governor Vajubhai Vala is also unlikely to initiate any action based on the letter, sources added. P4

CRPF personnel carry the coffin of a fallen jawan in Chhattisgarh on Sunday | PTI

It was a rerun of 2010 Dantewada attack; toll 22

SANA SHAKIL/EJAZ KAISER
@ New Delhi/Raipur

A group of around 200 Maoists silently observed the movement of a team of CRPF and state police personnel for nearly a day before singling out a largely isolated detachment of 150 personnel for a full-scale attack on Saturday at Bijapur in Chhattisgarh.

As on Sunday, 22 personnel had died, 35 were injured and one missing, suspected to have been captured by the Maoists. Saturday's encounter is the biggest blow to the security forces since April 2017's Burkapal attack.

The modus operandi of Saturday's encounter appears to be similar to Burkapal or Dantewada (2010) attacks, wherein the armed Maoists isolated and attacked a party of soldiers returning from an area domination exercise. Security forces repeatedly falling prey to this tactic — attacked when they have been in the field for over 24 hours and at their vulnerable worst due to exhaustion — raises questions on the lessons learnt by the forces from their past brushes with the Maoists.

"Our aggressive anti-Maoist operations will continue with renewed strategy. As per our information, the Maoists have suffered heavy casualties. Our sources revealed that they carried their dead in four tractors," said Director General (anti-Maoist operation) Ashok Juneja. The exact casualty on the Maoist side could not be confirmed.

CONTINUED ON: P8

PAYING IT FORWARD

Soota wants elderly to be 'happiest minds', commits ₹200 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

FOUNDER and executive chairman of Happiest Minds, Ashok Soota, on Sunday launched a not-for-profit, SKAN, to conduct research on neurological and ageing issues, partnering with the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc) Centre for Brain Research (CBR) and St John's Geriatric Centre (SJGC).

Soota, a newly-minted billionaire after his company went public recently, has committed ₹200 crore for the projects.

From this, 50 per cent has been earmarked for for the partners, while the rest is investments in SKAN that will include funding direct projects, a statement said.

The objective of the endeavour is to search for kinder, gentler therapies; delaying onset and slowing down the progression of the disease and providing persons a better quality of life even as they live with the illness, according to the statement on Sunday.

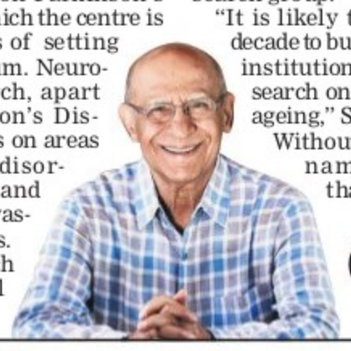
The first project will be through CBR on Parkinson's Disease, for which the centre is in the process of setting up a consortium. Neurological research, apart from Parkinson's Disease, will focus on areas like bipolar disorders, strokes and other cerebrovascular disorders.

The research on ageing will focus on under-researched areas, including the setting up of a large community-based research group.

"It is likely to take about a decade to build a world-class institution to conduct research on neurology and ageing," Soota said.

Without disclosing the names, he added that two eminent personalities have agreed to take charge as chairpersons of the two divisions "in case of an exigency to me if line of leadership is not ready to take charge".

Currently, SKAN is looking for chief executive officers, as well as talent for the two divisions pertaining to neurological research and research on ageing, the statement added.



it is likely to take about a decade to build a world-class institution to conduct research on neurology and ageing — Ashok Soota

ALMANAC TODAY
• **Monday:** 05/04/2021 • **Year:** Sarvari • **Ayana:** Uttharayana • **Ritu:** Sishira • **Masa:** Phalguna • **Paksha:** Krishna • **Tithi:** Ashtami 7:13 am • **Nakshatra:** Uttharashada 5:30 am • Moon in Makara Rashi • **Rahukaala:** 07:30 am to 09:00 am • **Gulikakala:** 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • **Yamaganda:** 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER | MIN 22°C | MAX 33°C | **FORECAST** Increasing cloudiness

Sunrise 6.13 am | Sunset 6.31 pm | Moonrise 1.22 am | Moonset 12.58 pm

BETTER MONITORING

KSPCB to track industrial waste disposal online

Attempts to ensure transparency, check irregularities through web-based app

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

TO ensure transparency and accountability in the disposal of hazardous waste generated by industries, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has taken the process completely online across the state from April 1.

A notification to this effect was issued by the board on March 31 to all industries. The move, billed the e-Manifest, has been introduced under the Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules 2016.

KSPCB member-secretary Srinivasulu explained that under this rule, industries must compulsorily maintain a 'hazardous waste manifest', which is a shipping document prepared and signed by the authorised sender that travels from the point of generation to the final treatment, storage and disposal facility. "The objective behind the manifest is to track hazardous waste from the time it leaves the generator facility of the industry to the off-waste management facility that will store, treat or dispose the waste," he said, adding that the whole process was done manually all along which was tedious. "To simplify the process, an IT initiative in the form of e-Manifest has been taken up by us across Karnataka now," he said.

TNIE has a copy of the notification which describes e-Manifest as: "This is a web-based application which enables registration and collection of hazardous wastes, transaction control, transparency in operations, accountability at all levels, sustainability and convenience to all stakeholders." Srinivasulu said that tens of thousands of industries dispose of waste daily and it is physically impossible to cross-check the manual applications regularly. "There are so many gaps in monitoring, and this allows irregularities to take place. For instance, industries would specify they were disposing a specific quantum of waste, but a much higher quantity would be disposed of. Through this kind of a tool, with very simple responses expected from the sender, the transporter and at the collection point, the board can closely monitor proper waste disposal," he said.

The move has just been rolled out and presently the board is hand-holding all those involved in the disposal process to help them get familiar with the process, the official said.

Marshals posted at CETPS

Another move initiated by the KSPCB is the posting of 12 marshals across its Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) from April 2. "For the first time, we have recruited individuals for such a post. They are like watchdogs at the plant who will cross-check if the e-manifest process we have put in place is working smoothly," said KSPCB member-secretary Srinivasulu. This was a small step towards cleansing the system, he added.

BBMP polls can be held any time: Think-tank

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

WITH the BBMP Council completing its term on September 10, and an administrator in charge, there is general concern about when elections will be held. A city-based think-tank has said the government can go ahead with fresh elections.

PG Shenoy and CR Ravindra, directors of the Centre For Urban Governance Studies and Policy Research, said, "There are no legal hindrances to holding fresh elections." The BBMP Act, 2020 has come into force. The term of the previous BBMP Council expired on September 10, 2020, following which an administrator was appointed.

"Elections should have been held before the expiry of the previous Council's term. Delimitation and reservation process was completed in advance, and the State Election Commission had also published the voters' list so that elections could have been completed before September 10, 2020."

Under Section 7 of the BBMP Act, the Palike has at least 225 wards. Therefore, the government should have allowed the State Election Commission to proceed with elections to 198 wards which are already notified, to fulfil the mandate of Article 243U of the Constitution. The government can further divide the existing 198 wards, as the new Act specifies a minimum of 225 wards for BBMP, soon after completion of the poll process, and constitute the new BBMP Council, they said.

Elections for the 27 additional wards can be held after the new wards are notified along with reservation. This administrative arrangement will avoid further delay and eventually, elections to the next BBMP Council can be completed by June 2021, taking into consideration the preparatory time required by the SEC. Till such time, the administrator can continue under extreme circumstances, they added.

However, it must be noted that there is no provision under Section 127 to appoint an administrator unless the body is superseded or dissolved prematurely. "This alone can resolve the deadlock and confusion created for various reasons and ensure compliance with the Constitutional mandate," they added.

The government must also incorporate zonal demarcation for the 198 wards already notified to facilitate constitution of zonal committees, as they are specified as statutory corporation authorities and form an integral part of the BBMP Council.

FAITH AND PIETY

The devout light candles and offer Easter prayers at St Mary's Basilica in Shivajinagar on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

DFRL tackles space food junk issue

AJITH M S @Mysuru

AS the country waits for its first manned space mission, Gaganyaan, slated for 2022, and our Gaganauts expected to carry aloo parathas and idlis as their food, scientists have developed an indigenous, or an atmanirbhar, solution to tackle food waste issue in the space.

The Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) here has come out with a patented food-waste pouch system for the mission that would restrict the growth of microbes and prevent food from getting spoilt.

Recently, DFRL had announced it has made Indian foods suitable for space travel, and had released a menu of 30 Indian dishes, including idlis, veg pulav, moong dal halwa, dal, aloo parathas and chicken curry. The food will be put into specially designed desiccated packages and can be eaten after filling the packets with water.

But tackling leftovers and food waste was one of the concerns that had no pre-existing solutions since Indian foods are tricky, unlike the commonly used space foods like sandwiches and burgers popular in American and Russian space programmes. The DFRL has now solved the issue through a food waste pouch technology which has a special compound that would restrict the growth of microbes spoiling the food and also kill the odour.

Sources said Indian foods have more moisture than other space foods.

"A burger leftover can be kept for a week, but a chapati can only stay for two days," they pointed out.

POACHERS WITH JAW TRAPS BACK IN STATE

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

A recent incident of poachers caught with jaw traps and snares along with tiger and leopard skins from Nagarhole Tiger Reserve has made Karnataka forest department officials sit up and tighten the vigil.

What worries the officials is that poachers have gone back to the age old crude method of using jaw traps in the state forests, especially Nagarhole. The forest intelligence wing has been ordered to stay alert, to reestablish contacts with forest departments in North India to trace links between local and other state poachers and to see what new methods are being adopted.

In March this year, the forest mobile squad arrested three Dongri tribals from North India and a Jenukuruba tribesman. They confessed to catching a leopard using a jaw trap and a tiger using a snare. The leopard was beaten to death after it was caught last year, while the tiger was captured six months ago.

The major jaw trap incident that shocked state officials was the capture of a male wild tiger, Maasti in Maastigudi in Nagarhole in 2002. After losing his left forelimb, and staying for a short while in Mysuru zoo, Maasti had made Bannerghatta Biological Park rescue centre its home, where it breathed its last in 2013. Investigations revealed the involvement of Patni tribals from North India.

In 2012 too, Nagarhole staffers found a jaw trap laid in Veeranahosalli range to catch deer. In 2013, Bahelia tribals from North India were caught in BRT Tiger Reserve with jaw traps.

"We are checking if locals have any links with tribals from North India or if they have upgraded the traditional jaw traps to catch animals. Either way, the presence of jaw traps in forests is a matter of concern. Vigil has been tightened. We have also intensified talks with Kerala and Tamil Nadu forest officials to get links. This cannot be taken lightly," a senior forest department official told TNIE.

Experts and conservationists suggested that hamlets on the fringes of forests should be checked and intelligence gathering stepped up, as there are reports of snares and traps being found in these places.

The poachers held at Nagarhole Tiger Reserve with leopard and tiger pelts, jaw traps and other weapons.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

05th April: I am a big fan of science fiction, and one of my favourite films is 'Arrival'. The core theme – and I hope I am not spoiling it for you – is that all moments in time, past, present and future, exist simultaneously. Actually, this is an ancient astrological idea and one of the assumptions that are used in the interpretation of astrological rules.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
Although today's stars are somewhat intense, tomorrow's are lighter. You may therefore use the opportunity to deal with deep and dark emotional undercurrents without worrying whether there's a light at the end of the tunnel. That's because there is!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
The Moon is making its regular challenge to your sign, but in a rather nice sort of way. This is the time of the month when you have to do what you're told. Or perhaps it would be true to say that if you allow others to take the lead now, you'll gain in the long run.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
It's undoubtedly a day to get up to date with all routine chores, secure in the knowledge that the more you achieve now, the more time you'll have off in the future. Go for broke and you might even amaze yourself. If you're liable to an attack of nerves, seek reassurance first.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Once in a while the planets send you messages which are at once helpful and constructive. Difficulties can be resolved if you rise to the challenge. However, if you take the right steps, life will be transformed for the better. In fact, there's no way but up!

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
The Moon is aligned with the lower reaches of your solar chart, so you may turn your attention to the foundations of your life. In other words, before you can succeed in any worldly ambitions, family matters must be resolved - and quick!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
It's decision time again. However, it is unlikely that choices made now will be binding, so take as long as you like. The only essential proviso is that you talk to as many people as possible and gain as many different points of view as you can. A little wisdom, as they say, is a good thing.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Check up on the week's financial plans. It's all a matter of dealing with the obvious, like whether you have enough cash in your purse. Avoid making unnecessary value judgments on partners' behaviour. Chances are that you'll misunderstand their intentions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The Moon is extra strong today, so it's your turn to shine. Your emotions may be slightly unsteady, but nothing you can't cope with. There's a business like air to the day, and the people who do best will be those who get on with the job in hand - and don't get into a flap!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
Keep your feelings to yourself if you wish. Put vague suspicions aside and concentrate on whatever spiritual or mystical truth makes sense to you. When you notice the patterns that underpin your affairs, then you'll be ready to shift them to your favour.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
By all means continue to stand your ground over partnership or domestic matters, but you should understand that it's best to concentrate on the long-term rather than be drawn into daily squabbles. It's the shape of things this time next year that matters.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
It's a day for winning. This is not to say that you must come first, but at least you should compete. Don't refuse to fight just because you risk failure. And if you do have an attack of self-doubt, take your cue from people who have been in the same situation - and won.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
The Moon's alignments are generally favourable and supportive, and your new understanding of your deeper purpose should help you get to grips with worldly or professional matters which have been the subject of some considerable confusion.

THE PHANTOM

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

BLONDIE

WOW! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WE'RE PREPPING FOR THE DROPPING OF THE MEATBALL ON NEW YEAR'S EVE
FIRST WE WIND IT UP
THEN AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT, WE DROP THIS BABY INTO THE MARINARA!
IT'S FABULOUS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GOING TO LOU'S FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE THIS YEAR?

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

SUDOKU

Hard: Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

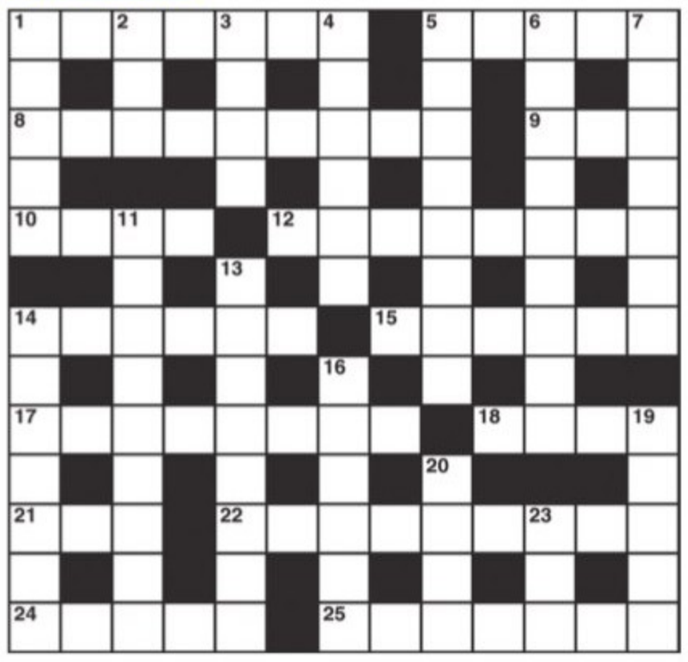
■ Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	3				1			
1	4	5		3			7	9
3			5			7		
	8	7	3		2	1	6	
		2			8			4
5	9			1		8	4	6
			9				3	

Solutions to saturday's puzzle

4	8	2	9	6	1	3	7	5
9	3	1	8	5	7	6	4	2
6	7	5	3	4	2	1	8	9
7	2	9	5	3	4	8	6	1
8	6	3	7	1	9	2	5	4
5	1	4	6	2	8	7	9	3
3	4	7	2	8	5	9	1	6
2	5	8	1	9	6	4	3	7
1	9	6	4	7	3	5	2	8

CROSS WORD



ACROSS
1 It's the least one can do (7)
5 Short work for counsel (5)
8 Glass or beer mat needs changing (9)
9 Refreshment in the late afternoon (3)
10 Job for a shipping company (4)
12 A liking for a feather bed maybe (4,4)
14 Route followed by an Afghan tribesman (6)
15 Destroy a one-sided listener with charm (6)
17 Note the character - it makes no difference (8)
18 Those who lose control in rows may catch it (4)
21 Fails to contain trouble (3)
22 Somehow never able to be like an archdeacon (9)
24 A better bed (5)
25 Took over additional accommodation? (7)

DOWN
1 Amble around to see a girl (5)
2 This way for the fjords (3)
3 Note from me to the doctor (4)
4 Strangely remote star (6)
5 A singer to object to one wrong note (8)
6 Wearing trendy clothes for driving fast? (2,3,4)
7 Not so high praise (7)
11 It's pronounced without conviction (3,6)
13 Apparently too late for a cropper to come a cropper (4,4)
14 Be the more usual to succeed (7)
16 Way a New Zealand article portrays verse (6)
19 Increase the strain (5)
20 It's very hard but laundry maids do it (4)
23 It may contain a slow-growing shrub (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Goatskin, 5 User, 9 Mamba, 10 Bouquet, 11 Bridge player, 13 Abrupt, 14 Bobbin, 17 Left in the air, 20 Leather, 21 Heave, 22 Tart, 23 Bearings.

Down: 1 Game, 2 Admirer, 3 Stand-up fight, 4 Inbred, 6 Study, 7 Retiring, 8 Pull together, 12 Fall flat, 15 Britain, 16 Starve, 18 Flair, 19 Keys.

JUMBLE By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ODYIL

DUFIL

RHYOTN

GANDOR

©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All Rights Reserved

LOVE TAPS BODY REPAIR
My wife will kill me if she sees her car like this.
She'll never know. I'll have this as good as new.
HE HAD THE SMALL DENT IN HIS WIFE'S CAR REPAIRED TO KEEP HER FROM ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

" ○○○○ - ○○○○ " ○○○

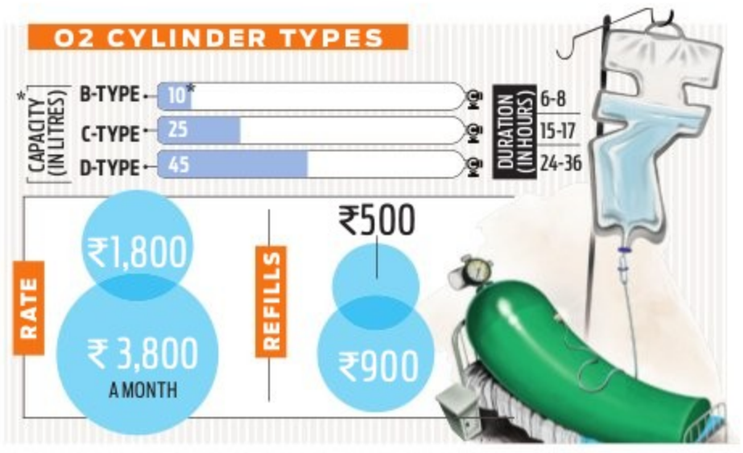
ANSWERS TOMORROW

SATURDAY'S: **Jumbles:** SCOUT INEPT ENSIGN REGRET
ANSWER: When they looked at the available lots in the new development, they were – "SITE-SEEING"

As cases rise, demand for oxygen up

NGOs, oxygen banks get more calls to supply cylinders at homes as hospital beds fill up

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru



WITH Covid cases continuing to rise in Bengaluru, more and more patients are finding themselves in need of oxygen, leading to a significant increase in demand. The impact of this is being felt by NGOs that deliver oxygen cylinders for free, private oxygen banks and hospitals.

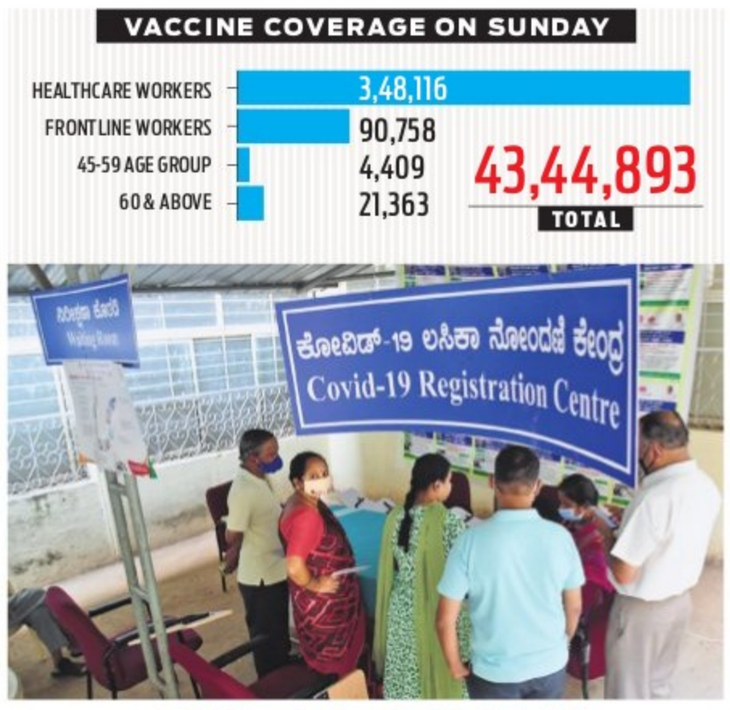
One such NGO is the Crisis Management India, which rents oxygen cylinders from private centres in the city and gives it for free to those who are unable to afford it. Its founder-member Afsar Ahmed said that they get at least two to three phone calls a day, requesting for oxygen cylinders. People who require oxygen include those who have symptoms, but have not got themselves tested and suddenly find their oxygen saturation levels dropping at home, recovered patients who need oxygen post discharge and positive patients requiring oxygen beds, but are unable to afford private hospitals and are hesitant to go to government ones, Ahmed said. He pointed out that government facilities are reaching their limits with ICUs and oxygen beds filling up fast, and added that patients with post Covid complications may need oxygen cylinders at home for anywhere between 15 days to a month.

At the KC General Hospital in Malleswaram, the demand for oxygen beds has ensured that only five are remaining out of the 135 general, ICU and oxygen beds. "Oxygen is also required for patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Infection, who are suspected to have contracted Covid, and are awaiting their test result," Dr BR Venkateshaiah, medical superintendent, K C General Hospital.

Syed Tousif Masood, coordinator for oxygen operations at NGO Mercy Mission, has observed the demand for oxygen increase in the past one week. He said that as it takes time to check with hospitals for available oxygen beds or ICUs, patients require oxygen cylinders delivered to them in their homes.

"We have reduced the number of oxygen banks we operate from nine to three after the number of Covid-19 cases began to drop earlier, but now as more people need it, we are delivering seven to eight cylinders a day. We give it free to those who cannot afford private ones and only charge a refundable deposit," Masood said.

He said that once oxygen saturation levels fall below 92 per cent, oxygen support is required, and added that cylinders cost from some private entities cost as much as Rs 5,000 to Rs 6,000, which is not affordable for many people.



SHOT AT SAFETY

People in the age group of 45-plus wait to get their Covid-19 vaccine shot during a vaccination drive at KC General Hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Mixing Covid shots: Two much, too soon, docs say

CHETANA BELAGERE @Bengaluru

AS cases across India rise worryingly, there is curiosity about whether or not an individual can be given one dose each of two different vaccines. If it were possible, it could speed up the vaccination process, help overcome supply bottlenecks, and to some extent reduce wastage of doses, health professionals say.

However, there is very little research on whether an individual can be given one dose each of two different vaccines where a two-dose regimen is involved. Currently, India has given emergency-use approvals for the use of Covishield and Covaxin, both of which have two-dose regimen. While Covishield, developed by Oxford University, uses adenovirus (which causes cold in chimpanzees), Covaxin uses a dead virus to induce immunity.

"While there have been several people who wondered if the two vaccines that are available in India — Covishield and Covaxin — can be taken (in combination). The answer is no for now," said Dr V Ravi, renowned virologist and nodal officer for INSACOG lab at Nimhans. According to him, no scientific data available till now, although attempts are on to study this. The United Kingdom's National Health Service is currently looking for participants for a study on the effects on the immune system when an individual is primed with one particular vaccine (the first shot) and is boosted with another (second shot), he said.

Called Com-COV, the study involves researching the effectiveness of the vaccines developed by Oxford University and Pfizer when they are combined. Neither of the vaccines uses SARS-CoV-2, and so, one cannot contract Covid-19 from the vaccines.

"The data could be interesting. The concept of mixing vaccines, which is also called heterologous prime boost, is not new to pandemics. For many years this has been investigated, with the hope that potent combinations against a range of viruses such as influenza, HIV and Ebola can be found," said a senior virologist from Manipal.

According to Dr Ravi, who is a member of the international scientific advisory board for Sputnik V, a study on the Russian vaccine is under way. Gamaleya Institute, manufacturer of Sputnik V, has partnered with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. They have registered a pair of clinical trials in which volunteers will receive one dose each of Oxford University's vaccine and Sputnik V. However, this is under review.

Interestingly, an expert panel has permitted Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Bharat Biotech to administer a third dose of Covaxin to some of volunteers in its ongoing clinical trials. The approval, a result of the Hyderabad-based vaccine maker's proposal to use an additional booster dose, would allow it to test the ability of Covaxin to prompt an immune response that could last a few years.

B'LURU URBAN LOGS MOST DAILY CASES IN KARNATAKA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

OVER the same period, the state's recovery rate has plummeted from 97.78 per cent on March 15 to 94.90 per cent on Sunday.

The state recorded 4,553 new cases with 15 covid deaths and 2,060 discharges. The total positive cases are 10,15,155 with 9,63,419 discharged and 39,092 active cases which are currently under treatment across the state. In Bengaluru Urban, 2,787 new cases were reported with 1,225 discharges and eight deaths. Total active cases in Bengaluru are 28,0,98 and Covid deaths 4,649.

Bengaluru Urban has been contributing the highest daily average of Covid cases in the state. The city has the maximum number of cluster cases and has declared 31 spots as containment zones. With the rapid increase in cases, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has ramped up testing and has conducted 1,23,361 tests so far in April. The wards with the highest cases are Bellandur, RR Nagar, HSR layout, Shantala Nagar, HSR Layout, Begur, Hemmigepura and Doddanekundi.

13 medicos test +ve, some even after jabs

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AS many as 13 medical students of the Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) have been tested Covid positive. Surprisingly, some of the infected students had even been vaccinated with the second dose. The affected students are currently under isolation in separate hostel rooms.

Dr Smitha Segu, Covid-19 nodal officer at BMCRI, confirmed that none of the 13 MBBS students have had any travel history. "A few students developed symptoms and tests were carried out. Then, testing was carried out in the BMCRI hostel and 13 were found positive. Some of them were even inoculated, but their infection severity is less," she said.

Recently, two students of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, who had got their second dose of vaccination, tested positive. "About 14 days ago, two nurses tested positive after vaccination, but they did not show any severity of infection," said Dr C N Manjunath, director of the hospital.

Cases of people contracting Covid after vaccination were reported from Manipal Hospital. "We have seen some patients with clinical symptoms after the first dose of vaccination. What we have realised is that people lower their guard after the first dose of vaccination and get infected," said Dr Anoop Amarnath, Head, Scientific Board and Chairman-Geriatric Medicine, Manipal Hospital. "Everyone needs to wear masks and continue social distancing even after getting vaccinated, as the immunity increases after the second dose. Vaccines do not protect against infection, but reduces the severity once infected," clarified Dr Amarnath.

KARNATAKA TO GET 15.25 LAKH DOSES

Bengaluru: Following a request from the Karnataka government, the Centre has approved an emergency supply of 15.25 lakh doses of Covid-19 vaccine. Of this, 10 lakh doses are being airlifted to the state on Monday. In a tweet, Health Minister K Sudhakar said that fresh doses will arrive in two consignments. "One consignment of 5,25,500 doses will arrive at Belagavi by road and another of 10,00,000 doses will arrive at Bengaluru by air through a late evening flight," he tweeted.

CRIME PATROL

Three arrested for thefts in two incidents

In two separate cases, the West Division police arrested three men and recovered nine two-wheelers and 15 mobile phones. The Kalasipalya police arrested Saifan Pasha (20) and Irshad Pasha (19), and recovered 15 mobile phones and two two-wheelers. "The two were trying to sell these on AM Road when they were picked up," the police said. In another case, JJ Nagar police arrested Toufik Pasha (27) and recovered seven bikes. Seven vehicle theft cases in JJ Nagar, KP Agrahara, Vijayanagar, Cottonpet, Byatarayanapura, Marathalli and VV Puram police stations have been solved with his arrest. ENS

36-year-old real estate agent hacked to death

A 36-year-old staffer of a real estate agency was hacked to death by some men in Sahakarnagar on Sunday. The deceased is Vikram, a resident of Kodigehalli, who was working at his brother-in-law's agency. Police said in the morning, Vikram was in his office when the gang called him to talk over a property issue. When he came to meet them, they attacked him. Vikram tried to run, but the gang gave chase, before killing him. The incident was captured by a nearby CCTV camera. Residents noticed the body and alerted police, who have formed a special team to nab the assailants. ENS

Nigerian drug peddler held, MDMA, ecstasy pills seized

The JC Nagar police arrested a 38-year-old Nigerian on charges of peddling drugs, and recovered MDMA and ecstasy pills from him. The accused is Tony Onyebuchi, a resident of Avalahalli near KR Puram. He hails from Abuja in Nigeria. Police said they arrested him from near the railway bridge on Bore Bunk Road. "We have seized 90 grams of MDMA, 75 ecstasy pills, cash, and a two-wheeler. Onyebuchi had come to India in 2013 and was running a textile business in Mumbai. As he suffered huge losses, he shifted to Bengaluru last year and got involved in peddling drugs," police added. ENS

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (COMMERCIAL COURT-89)

COMMERCIAL O.S. No. 83 OF 2021

BETWEEN:

M/S SHREE BALAJI BIO FUELS, Having Office At Shed No. P-11, Near NH-75, KSSIDC Industrial Estate, Tamaka Kolar, Karnataka-563101. Proprietor Mrs. Rashmi Jhunjhunwala
Represented By her GPA Holder Mr. Lalit Kumar Jhunjhunwala
Email: lalitj@yahoo.co.in Ph: 9448365651
...PLAINTIFF

VERSUS

M/S PLASTO TECH INDUSTRY, Having Office At No. 45, NTI 1st Phase, Rajeevgandhi Nagar, Kodigehalli, Sahakarnagar Post, Bangalore-560092.
Represented by its Proprietor Mr. Shashikala Sonappa
ALSO AT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:
1. No. 204, 2nd Floor, Bhavya Harmony Apartments, Kodigehalli, Sahakarnagar Post, Bangalore-560092.
2. No. 26, 27, Lakshmipura Main Road, Abbigere, Bangalore-560090.
3. C/o. V3 PLASTO TECH PVT. LTD, No. 256, 23rd Road, 3rd Phase, KIADB Industrial Area, Obadenahalli, Doddaballapura, Bengaluru-521203.
E-mail: plastotech2017@gmail.com
Ph: 9845066414 ...DEFENDANT

SUMMON TO DEFENDANT UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 (1A OF CPC)

Whereas the Plaintiff i.e. M/s Shreebalaji Bio Fuels have filed a suit bearing No. Comm O.S. No. 83/2021, before the Hon'ble Court of the Commercial Court-89 at Bangalore, for the recovery of invoice amount due to the Plaintiff from the Defendant amounting to Rs.4,48,400/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Four Hundred only) along with the interest. Therefore you are called upon to appear in above mentioned Court **on 15-04-2021 at 11.00 AM** either personally or through your counsel. Take Notice of the same, failing which the suit will be disposed off ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on 29th day of March 2021.

By the Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Anupam Agarwal
Advocate for Plaintiff
For Ramniwas Surajmal
Office at: No.1211, 12th Floor, B-Wing, Mittal Towers, M.G Road, Bangalore-560001.

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3 (1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd.(IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within 60 days from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:-

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr. Kaleemulla, Mrs. Asma (**Prospect No. 908160**)	**30-Mar-2021 Rs. 2,91,795/-** (Rupees Two Lakh Ninety One Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Five Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : No.154, Door No. 1878/154, admeasuring 300 sq. ft. , 3rd Ward, Basha Nagar, 3rd Cross, Davangere, Pincode:- 577001

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers.

For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at Branch Office :IIFL HFL "ADAM CHAMBERS," #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru - 560025/or Corporate Office : IIFL Tower, Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore Date: 05.04.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of "Kalyan Karnataka Party". The office of the party is located at CTS No. 4589/A, First Floor, Shetty Galli, Belagavi - 590002, Karnataka. This party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 - Names / address of the office bearers of the party are as follows :

President / Chairman : Kalyanrao G. Muchalambi
General Secretary / Secretary : Jagadish B. Waded
Treasurer : Shankrayya R. Hiremath

If anyone has any objection to the registration of "Kalyan Karnataka Party" they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi - 110 001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

AXIS BANK

Plot No. 41, Seshadri Road, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore-560009 (Mobile) +91 80950 65789

POSSESSION NOTICE See Rule - 8(1) (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Axis Bank Ltd.,** under The Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 had issued a Demand Notices calling upon the Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned In the notice within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, Notice is hereby given to the Borrowers / Guarantor / Mortgagors and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on below mentioned dates.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub Section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The Borrowers / Mortgagors / Guarantors in particular and the Public in General are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charges of the **Axis Bank Ltd.,** for an amount interest and Other Charges mentioned below.

1. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1) Mrs. C Manjula (Applicant) W/o G S Srinivas # 90, Narayanappa Road, Nagashettyhalli RMV Extension, II Stage, Bangalore-560094. **Also At:** (PID) No. 100-700-90 Nagashettihalli Village, RMV 2nd Stage, behind Government School, Bangalore-560094. **2) Mr. G S Srinivas (Co-Applicant)** S/o G P Shamana # 90, Narayanappa Road, Nagashettyhalli RMV Extension, II Stage, Bangalore-560094. **Also At:** (PID) No. 100-700-90 Nagashettihalli Village, RMV 2nd Stage, behind Government School, Bangalore-560094.
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.35,09,879.00/- (Rupees Thirty Five lakh Nine thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy Nine Only) being the amount due as on **13.06.2019** which excludes unapplied interest form **13.06.2019** towards ODPPH and interest thereon.
Loan A/c No : 914030041566177, Demand Notice Dated : 21.06.2019, Possession Notice Dated : 31.03.2021
Details Of Mortgaged Property: All that piece and parcel of the residential house bearing BBMP Kathe (PID) No. 100-700-90 measuring East to West 30 feet Situated at Nagashettihalli Village RMV 2nd Stage behind government School, Bangalore-560094 and bounded on: East by : Bhagyamma's Property, West by:Private Property and Temple, North by: Doddappaiana @ Basappa's Property, South by: Venkataramappa's Property.

2. Name and Address of the Borrower / Co-Borrower / Mortgagor / Guarantor : 1) Mr N C Rajakumar (Borrower) C/o: Nagaraja Building, 3rd Cross, Kanaka Nagara Hoskote Town, Bangalore Rural District Near Synndy Veg Bekari - 562114 **Also At:** S/o: Chikka Ramaiah Nidagatta, Hosakote Talluk Hosakote, Bangalore Rural, Jodidasarahalli Post, Bangalore Rural - 562114 **Also At:** Site No. 1, Katha No. 515/63/43/1/119(P) Chimasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560067 **2) Mrs. Munirathnamma (Co-Borrower)** C/o: Nagaraja Bilding, 3rd Cross, Kanaka Nagara Hoskote Town, Bangalore Rural District Near Synndy Veg Bekari - 562114 **Also At:** W/o: N C Raj Kumar Nidagatta, Hosakote Talluk Hosakote, Bangalore Rural, Jodidasarahalli Post, Bangalore Rural - 562114 **Also At:** Site No. 1, Katha No. 515/63/43/1/119(P) Chimasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore-560067
Total amount mentioned in the notice : Rs.32,73,935.00/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Seventy Three Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Five Only) being the amount due as on **02.11.2019** which excludes unapplied interest form **03.11.2019** towards Overdraft & Production Credit and interest thereon.
Loan A/c No : 918030017992797 , 918030017992810, Demand Notice Dated : 23.01.2020,
Possession Notice Dated : 31.03.2021
Details Of Mortgaged Property: All that piece and parcel of immovable property Site bearing No. 1, having Khatha No. 515/63/43/1/119(P) and Property No. 150200400501200624, measuring East to West 15 feet and North to South 52 feet in total 780 Sq ft, situated in Chimasandra Village, Bidarahalli Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore and bounded on: East by : Property belonging to C Krishnamurthy, West by: Site No. 2, North by: Road, South by: private Property.

Date : 31.03.2021 **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place : Bangalore **Axis Bank**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only Through e-procurement Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1.	WWM-H.Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM)H/PB-3/1501/2020-21 Date: 26.03.2021	Rs. 49.447 Lakhs / Rs. 99,000/-	19.04.2021 upto 5.30 pm	21.04.2021 at 12.00 noon
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-H.Valley)
2.	WWM-C.Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM)-(CV)/PB/1818/2020-21 Date: 25.03.2021	Rs. 44.85 Lakhs / Rs. 0.90 Lakh	12.04.2021 upto 4.00 pm	15.04.2021 at 11.00 am
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-C.Valley)
3.	STP-A.Valley	BWSSB/ESATE/TO/720/2020-21 Date: 30.03.2021	Rs. 12,49,362/- / Rs. 31,250/-	12.04.2021 upto 5.30 pm	14.04.2021 after 11.00 am
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (STP-Arkavathi Valley)
4.	STP-H.Valley	BWSSB/ESH/PB/1461/2020-21 Date: 26.03.2021	Rs. 34,90,000/- / Rs. 69,800/-	19.04.2021 upto 5.00 pm	20.04.2021 at 5.00 pm
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (STP-H.Valley)
Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.					
5.	Central	BWSSB/EEC/PB/2407/2020-21 Date: 31.03.2021	Rs. 5,55,773/- / Rs. 13,900/-	19.04.2021 upto 5.00 pm	20.04.2021 after 5.01 pm
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (Central)
Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.					
6.	(South East)-1	BWSSB/EE(SE)-1/PB/3438/2020-21 Date: 30.03.2021	Rs. 9,21,971/- / Rs. 23,100/-	19.04.2021 upto 4.00 pm	20.04.2021 after 5.00 pm
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (South East)-1
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.					
7.	MIS	BWSSB/EMS/TE/MS1/AE/02/2021-22/Call-4 Date: 03.04.2021	Rs. 61.08 Lakhs / Rs. 1.22 Lakhs	12.04.2021 at 4.00 pm	15.04.2021 at 4.00 pm
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (MIS)
8.	RB-IT	BWSSB/ERB/06/2021-22 Date: 03.04.2021	EMD : Rs. 83,000/-	15.04.2021 upto 5.00 pm	16.04.2021 at 5.30 pm
					Sd/- Executive Engineer (RB-IT)

The Details regarding participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/DDU/Zen/R.O:022/2020-21

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Siddaganga Mutt head Siddalinga Swami praised CM B S Yediyurappa saying that he understands the importance of mutts and has helped them in all ways. He also said works of Yediyurappa should be remembered by society

KSE showers praise on CM, tries to patch up

Duo don't interact or smile at each other; Impasse after Eshwarappa wrote to Guv accusing BSY of interference

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa and others at an event at the Belludi branch mutt of Kaginele Kanaka gurupeeta in Harihar taluk on Sunday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Davanagere

RURAL Development Minister KS Eshwarappa on Sunday tried to patch up with Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa by showering praises on him, and saying that it was the CM who had given him the green signal to celebrate Kanaka Jayanti in Karnataka.

They were both at Belludi branch mutt of Kaginele Kanaka gurupeeta. Eshwarappa said the government had also reacted positively to the issue of ST reservation for the Kuruba community.

His statement comes just days after he wrote a letter to the Governor, alleging that Yediyurappa was interfering in his ministry.

Despite this attempt at warming up, the two leaders did not smile at each other or exchange a word. Both were present near the Revanasiddeshwara Gaddige for a puja, but didn't interact. They were later seated in different sections for the entire programme.

When the media sought a response on Eshwarappa's letter, the Chief Minister snapped angrily, "Why do you want to discuss the issue, just leave it."

BSY announces Rs 5cr for Kanaka statue

Yediyurappa on Sunday announced that the government will release Rs 5 crore to put up a monolithic Kanaka statue, which will be the biggest in the country, at Kellodu village of Hosadurga taluk.

He said that the government will also release Rs 30 crore, which is pending, to the Sangolli Rayanna Development Authority of Belagavi.

The government is committed to provide justice for all communities on the reservation issue. Based on the recommendations of a three-member committee, constituted to look into demands of different communities on quota, a suitable decision acceptable by all will be taken, he added.

The government is expecting a favourable decision in the Supreme Court on an application seeking an increase in the reservation cap from the present 50 per cent, he said.

On Kurubas demanding a Scheduled Tribe tag, he said an ethnographic study is being conducted, and based on its results, the government will decide, he added.

The BJP will win all the three bypolls to Basavakalyan and Maski Assembly constituencies and Belagavi Lok Sabha segment, he said confidently.

Committed to increasing quota beyond 50 pc: HM

For the Kurubas to be added to the ST list, the quota limit should be increased to 7.5%. For Panchamasalis to get the 2A category status, quota limit should be hiked. Similarly, various communities have sought reservation benefits

Basavaraj Bommai, Home Minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru/Harihar

HOME Minister **Basavaraj Bommai** on Sunday said the State Government is committed to increasing reservation beyond the 50 per cent limit set by the Supreme Court. Bommai, who is also the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, said the government has already filed an affidavit in the Apex court in this regard to protect the interests of the Backward Classes.

Speaking after inaugurating a hostel, community hall and main entrance at Sri Kaginele Maha Kanasthanam Kanaka Gurupeeta, Bommai said, "For the Kuruba community to be added to the ST list, the quota should be increased to 7.5 per cent. For Panchamasalis to get 2A category status, quota limit should be hiked. Similarly, various communities have sought reservation benefits. To provide reservation to all the deserving communities, the limit has to be increased to more than 50 per cent. The State Government is committed to increasing the reservation limit." He said there was a consensus during a Cabinet meeting in this regard. "Increasing reservation is a challenge... we are expecting a good decision from the Supreme Court," he added.

He said reservation to all communities should be finalised within the framework of the Constitution, and said the State Government has set up a three-member panel to look into the matter. He said there is a demand by the Kurubas to be included in the ST list and a genealogy study will be conducted.

He said the government has provided assistance to the Kanakaguru seat and ₹10 crore has been sanctioned for the development of Mylara Mutt of which CM BS Yediyurappa has already released ₹2.5 crore.

STRAWS IN THE WIND

60% is tough, KSE sets bar for students

Debates have raged over educational qualifications and academic performance of some bigwig netas, and not many politicians reveal their report cards. Yet, RDPR Minister K S Eshwarappa was disarmingly honest, admitting that he was an average student who would score just above the pass percentage of 35. He commiserated with the children of Government High School at Vinobanagar in Shivamogga, saying he knew how difficult it was to score above 60%. No doubt, the kids were kicked to hear him say, "I'm going to give a cash prize of Rs 5,000 to each student of this school who scores above 60% in SSLC. I will announce a grant of Rs 1 crore for this school if all SSLC students pass."

Vinay Guruji & Dr G on spiritual level

Phoren-returned spiritual guru Vinay Guruji met phoren-educated Dr G Parameshwara at his Siddhartha Medical College in Tumakuru recently. What prompted the former DyCM to adopt the 32-year-old engineering graduate as his guru is uncertain, but the guruji has impressed by throwing up his job in France to preach in India. His message to the world: 'One world, one caste' espoused by Mahatma Gandhi. He also believes that Gandhi is an avatar of Buddha, as both taught 'ahimsa'. When guru and disciple met, Dr G received a 'panchamukhi rudraksha' garland which he transferred to his wife Kannika, with the hope that it wards off all evil. In turn, the couple honoured Vinay Guruji with a bronze idol of Buddha. Some history: Parameshwara's father H M Gangadharaiah, a Gandhian, had gifted 'ragi rotti' to the Mahatma when he visited his hostel in Tumakuru.

'ALL OUR BOYS'

DKS tries to paper over cracks in Youth Cong

BANSY KALAPPA @ Bengaluru

IT'S been at least two months since the Karnataka State Youth Congress elections were held, and Raksha Ramaiah was declared winner after an ugly standoff. The other contender for the post was Mohammed Nalapad.

Technically, the matter has to be taken before the Indian Youth Congress, who in consultation with the AICC, declares the final winner. This process has not been done, and the final announcement has been mysteriously kept in abeyance.

Raksha Ramaiah

Nalapad

Clearly, it has become a hot-potato issue, with even senior leaders hesitant to take it up.

It may be recalled that the winner on the basis of votes was Nalapad, who polled more than 7,000 votes, but was unexpectedly disqualified, and Ramaiah was declared the winner. This was heavily contested by Congressmen who asked why he was not disqualified during the process of scrutiny before the polls, and say that the disqualification was an obvious afterthought.

KPCC president D K Shivakumar has attempted to avoid an ugly confrontation that could well split the Congress vertically, saying that "they are all our boys". He has carefully avoided pitching them against each other, and instead, has given them individual responsibilities -- while Raksha Ramaiah has been given charge of Maski, Nalapad is overseeing the Basavakalyan bypolls.

Ramaiah and his team members have been working in Maski, where Congress MLA Prathapgouda Patil deserted the Congress and joined the BJP, and where former BJP candidate BG Turvihal is contesting from the Congress. Nalapad and his team are in nearby Basavakalyan, where Narayan Rao's wife Malamma is the candidate. Both Youth Congress leaders are coordinating with local Youth Congress units to campaign, and have been going door-to-door to appeal for votes.

One Congress leader who had served in the Youth Congress for many years, said on condition of anonymity, that the party was focussing on the bypolls, and the issue would be decided after the April 17 vote.

Being deprived of funds: Cong MLAs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mysuru

CONGRESS MLAs Yathindra and HP Manjunath on Sunday said that their constituencies are being starved of grants and expressed concern that people in the constituencies are unhappy with pending works.

A majority of opposition MLAs have been complaining about the State Government not releasing required funds to their constituencies for development works. JDS leader HD Revanna had recently even threatened that he and his party MLAs would sit on a dharna in the Assembly, but he was dissuaded by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa.

Talking to the media on Sunday, Yathindra and Manjunath alleged that the government has taken back the funds approved for development works in rural areas and accused Yediyurappa of running an authoritarian government, and favouring his family members while releasing grants.

Congress MLAs Yathindra and HP Manjunath and party MLC Dharmasena address the media in Mysuru on Sunday | UDAYSHANKAR S

Manjunath said, "Our constituencies are starving for grants. We are not demanding any special grants, but only want what we got during the previous government."

He said, "I have been demanding funds for upgrading Kattemalalavadi Lake, but it has been neglected. I don't know why there is disparity while granting funds to Hunsur." He warned that he will pursue it legally and file a public interest litigation over issues and delays.

Yathindra, who is the son of Congress Legislature Party leader Siddaramaiah, said that funds have not been released to even his constituency. Many community halls in his constituencies have remained unfinished, while no road work has been taken up because of lack of funds, he added.

Our constituencies are starving for grants. We are not demanding any special grants, but only want what we got during the previous government

HP Manjunath, Congress MLA

Yatnal: Nirani blackmailed CM using CD

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Vijayapura

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal continued to attack CM BS Yediyurappa and his son B Y Vijayendra, who is BJP state unit vice-president. "If the party the high command doesn't replace BS Yediyurappa as the CM on or before May 2, it will witness more dissent," he said.

Lashing out at Murugesh Nirani, Yatnal accused him of becoming a minister by blackmailing Yediyurappa with a CD.

"It is not just K S Eshwarappa, several ministers are also unhappy with the interference of Vijayendra." "I am perplexed as to whether the high command has given BJP general secretary Arun Singh in charge of the party in the state or the CM and his family."

PM to address BJP karyakartas tomorrow

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

TAKING time away from his blitzkrieg electoral campaigns in multiple states headed to Assembly polls, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Tuesday will address party workers via video conferencing.

As part of BJP foundation day, Modi along with BJP National President Jagat Prakash Nadda will interact with party workers from across the country and each state unit is making elaborate arrangements for the same. This address, coming in the midst of an election season, is expected to enthuse cadres in poll-bound states to enhance the party's campaign multi-fold.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi will speak to karyakartas at 10.30 am on April 6 as part of BJP foundation day. To commemorate that day, we will organise productive activities like cleanliness drives, avoid single-use plastic awareness campaign, recognition for senior citizens and award ceremony for meritorious students," said BJP state chief Nalin Kumar Kateel.

While the Prime Minister is expected to encourage cadres to spread awareness on the BJP's achievements in the last seven years and push for a more vigorous election campaign, JP Nadda is expected to set new goals for the karyakartas to achieve before the next foundation day celebrations of the saffron party.

CD row: Woman writes to Pant, says SIT biased

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

ACCUSING the SIT of trying to shield former minister Ramesh Jarkiholi and instead treating her as an accused in the CD row case, the woman, who is purported to be seen in the video, again shot off a letter to Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Kamal Pant to voice her grievances.

In the three-page letter to Pant, she said that she had appeared before the court to record her statement under Section 164 of CrPC on March 30, but the SIT has been questioning her every day, while Jarkiholi was questioned only for three hours. "I have doubts whether I am the victim or accused," she said in the letter.

"Though my name is not mentioned in the FIR filed by Jarkiholi at Sadashivanagar police station, the police raided my PG accommodation to destroy evidence and make me the accused. They are defaming my name by providing wrong information to the media, and I am being portrayed as the accused," she alleged.

Referring to the recent public meeting where Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa had said that Jarkiholi would come out clean in the case, the woman wrote in the letter, "His statement scared me and I am seriously doubting whether there will be a fair investigation or the SIT is acting under pressure to protect Jarkiholi." She also raised questions about the appointment of a special public prosecutor in the case, since no one consulted her.

KN Jagadish Kumar, her advocate, also stated that his client had raised facts, and she was being harassed by the SIT on the pretext of inquiry. "They are pressuring her that she will break down physically and mentally," he said.

Ex-minister denies link with woman

Chitradurga: Former minister D Sudhakar on Sunday denied any links with the woman seen in the purported video that has caused a political storm in the state. This comes following a media report that suggested that Sudhakar had links with the woman. Speaking to reporters at Challakere, he said, "I am surprised to see my name being dragged into the CD controversy." Sudhakar said he did not transfer any money to anyone in connection with the CD-gate. "If I had committed any mistake, I would've obtained anticipatory bail," he said.

CROSSING BORDERS

Wary of Covid norms, Keralites give up voting plans

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

STRINGENT Covid norms have forced many Keralites living in Karnataka to give up plans to go to their home towns and vote in the assembly elections on April 6.

The advisory by the Karnataka government makes it mandatory for those coming from Maharashtra and Kerala to carry RT-PCR test results, besides advising people to avoid long-distance travel. This is playing spoilsport for thousands eager to exercise their franchise on Tuesday. Keralites have a rich tradition of active participation in the electoral process, with many even flying in from the Gulf nations to cast their votes. With RT-PCR test results a must, hundreds of Keralites having provision and condiments stores, juice centres and other shops in Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and other districts, prefer to stay away from the Kerala election. For many, elections are also an opportunity for family gatherings, with siblings and relatives spread across the country and abroad, meeting up in their native towns.

Anthony, a businessman, said he has decided to skip voting as it's risky to travel with his aged parents. With a spike in cases in Bengaluru, Mysuru and other places, he fears they will be held up if the Karnataka government announces a sudden lockdown.

A poster explaining Covid norms at the Attibele checkpost in Bengaluru | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

Sojo, who owns a pastry joint in Kuvempu Nagar, said he and his family of four have decided not to go to Kottayam to vote, as Karnataka has made it mandatory to show RT-PCR negative report at the border. A person who tests positive has to remain in quarantine for about ten days, and this would affect business and livelihood. He said that his friends who own vegetable shops and juice counters are not going to Mallappuram and Thalassery to vote. Besides which, they expect good business for the next week or so with Ugadi coming up next Tuesday.

Mathew, a student of Mysore University and a native of Yadapally, said he and his friends cannot go as they are in the middle of exams, and don't want to take a risk. Many other college and nursing students too are wary of visiting Kerala. "I will be missing my family gathering, though my cousins abroad too have no plans to come down to Calicut to vote," said Biju, a student.

The UDF, LDF and other parties have organised buses to ferry those who want to go home to vote. According to sources in the Railways, Mysuru-Kochuveli trains are running full on Monday, though Covid-negative certificates are mandatory at both destinations. Many in government service, party cadre and others have reserved tickets on these trains.

Actor-turned-politician and Makkal Neethi Maiam founder Kamal Hassan on Sunday said he is ready to quit cinema if it becomes hurdle for his political career

What election? 40 tribal families still oblivious to Kerala poll!

SAJIMON P S @Pathanamthitta

A tiny area under a torn tarpaulin sheet. One cannot call it even a makeshift hut, but that's where Rajan and Omana, a young tribal couple, and their daughters aged three and seven have been living for many years — in Manjathodu colony near Laha in Ranni. As the rest of Ranni constituency came alive during the campaigning finale on Sunday, the two wondered what the noise was all about. The reason: They didn't know an election was about to happen. They do have voter ID cards, but don't know its purpose either.

For the 40 Malampandaram tribal families living in the forest land at Manjathodu, there are bigger things to worry about. The biggest is to make sure that their children are not starving. Then there is the fear of elephants that could raid their colony anytime. Living deep inside the forest for weeks together to collect money, they don't feel connected to the rest of the world. But for the honey they collect, the world too doesn't care about them. Over 100 voters live in the colony. "Is this election time? We don't have any money to go by the bus to cast votes. We also do not know who are all contesting and why this election is being held," said Rajan, who was disappointed that he could not collect any honey on Saturday. Weather is getting hotter and a shortage of drinking water is being felt already, which adds to his tension.

Raju M, the mooppan (chieftain) of Malampandaram tribe, and wife Asha do not know anything about the candidates. "If a candidate approaches us, we'll give our votes to that candidate. But nobody comes to us these days," said Asha.

"We don't have drinking water and we're forced to buy it. We don't have power supply in our 40 houses here. We don't have land either. Recently elephants destroyed half of my hut. We had requested authorities concerned to set up solar-powered electric fences, but nothing happened. Why should we cast our votes?" Raju asked.

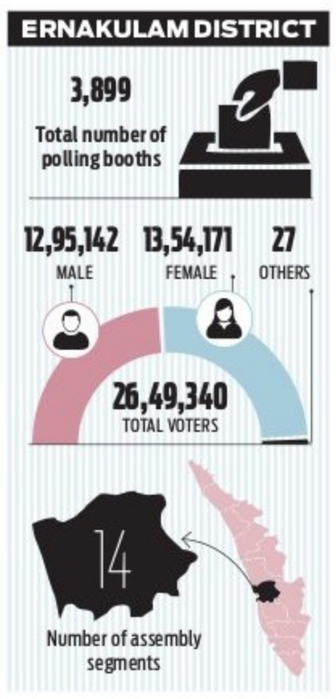
Voters at Manjathodu colony in Ranni constituency of Kerala show their voter cards on Sunday | EXPRESS

KERALA ALL SET FOR D-DAY

HIGH-VOLTAGE ROAD SHOWS MARK CAMPAIGNING FINALE

Many violate Covid guidelines; cops struggle to disperse crowds

Political parties organised many roadshows and rallies on the final day of campaigning in Tripunithura; Congress leader Rahul Gandhi interacts with a boy during a rally at Poojappura mandapam on Sunday in Thiruvananthapuram | A SANESH, BP DEEPU



EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @T'Puram

TOP leaders of all three major fronts including Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala, tore into opponents as the high-octane campaign for the assembly elections wound to a close on Sunday evening.

Though the 'kottikalasham'', the grand finale of campaigning, was banned, the three fronts took to the streets with rallies and road shows, throwing Covid guidelines to the wind. In Nemom, the police had a tough time dispersing the supporters of the three fronts who thronged the street soon after the campaign speech of Rahul Gandhi, MP, for UDF candidate K Muraleedharan ended.

The campaign also witnessed some interesting scenes as the LDF candidate in Vattiyoorkavu, V K Prasanth, took out his road show on a road roller to spread the message of the road development he claimed to have carried out in the constituency.

At Malampuzha in Palakkad, UDF candidate S K Ananthakrishnan took to the street on a bullock cart in protest against the rising fuel prices, while Rahul Gandhi reached a meeting venue in Kozhikode in an autorickshaw from the helipad. The 'captain' of LDF, Pinarayi, took out his road show in Dharmadom in Kannur transforming the streets into a sea of red, while Opposition leader Chennithala released further "proof" the power purchase deal between KSEB and Adani Enterprises while addressing media in Idukki. Senior Congress leader Oommen Chandy didn't take out a road show at Puthuppally.

In Kannur, CM Pinarayi took a dig at former chief minister Chandy while replying to the latter's claims of development projects carried out by the previous UDF government. "The development that was witnessed during the LDF government term is not eyewash. The hospitals were upgraded as medical colleges by not just changing the boards (as was done by UDF). The financial assistance to the people wasdistributed by not forcing them to stand in queues under the scorching sun for hours," he said.

EPS, OPS: It is going to be good governance vs dynasty rule

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

"THE current election is a battlefield between righteousness and injustice; a war between dharma and adharma. In this battle, dharma should win and the AIAMDK cadre should work for that to encash the goodwill of the people as votes," Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam, said in a joint statement on Sunday as they wrapped up their campaigns for the April 6 elections to the State Assembly.

"The people of Tamil Nadu know very well that the very purpose of late leader MG Ramachandran launching the AIADMK party was to protect the people from the 'evil force', called DMK. This is an election to decide whether the good governance of the Amma government should continue or the dynasty rule of the DMK, a corrupt governance, should return," they said, urging people to vote for the candidates of the AIADMK and its alliance parties - BJP, PMK, TMC, and others.

A worker makes arrangements at an election booth at Tiruvanmaiyur, in Tamil Nadu on Sunday | ASHWIN PRASATH

"On the path shown by our leaders MGR and J Jayalalithaa, we love all faiths and adore women as gods, mothers and sisters. On the contrary, the DMK sees differences among various faiths and insult women. They use minorities as tools for winning elections. They never fulfilled their electoral promises. And, they have been unleashing false promises with a view to defeat the AIAMDK which is providing good governance," Palaniswami and Panneerselvam said.

Coast Guard deploys patrol vessels to watch West coast

Savitri Bai Phule and Kasturba Gandhi, the two patrol vessels of Indian Coast Guard, docked at Karwar port | EXPRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Karwar

TO keep an eye on the West coast in the district, the Indian Coast Guard Services (ICGS) has deployed two fast patrol vessels, which have been pressed into service since April 1, 2021.

The coast guard has obtained these fast patrol vessels as an addition to its existing fleet, which will be rebased at Karwar. Earlier, they were based in New Mangalore. The vessels are named after the educational reformer Savithri Bai Phule and Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Mahatma Gandhi. They will be used to patrol the Uttara Kannada district, from Majali in the North to Bhatkal in the South.

According to Coast Guard officials, these vessels are built by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited. They are capable of high speed up to 35 knots, are equipped with 30mm CRN gun, and possess the latest satellite communication and navigation systems. "These vessels are designed for surveillance, patrol and are capable of shallow water operations too. Both vessels are also capable of anti-smuggling operations, anti-piracy patrol, fisheries protection and search-and-rescue operations. These vessels will add a new dimension to the capabilities of Coast Guard Station in Karwar," they said.

The ICGS, which will soon be a part of the Maritime Theatre Command (MTC), will be operating under one roof including both eastern and western command of the Navy and the Airforce. So far, the ICGS has been operating with two interceptor boats and two interceptor crafts since the day it was commissioned on November 4, 2009. However, the addition of these two vehicles will prepare it for bigger action as part of Maritime Theatre Command.

Earlier, a decision was made to set up a Maritime Theatre Command at the Seabird Naval Base in Karwar. It will enhance the significance of the Naval base in Uttara Kannada district.

EXPRESS READ

Wife sarpanch but man takes oath

The husband of a newly elected woman sarpanch, took the oath of office at Chudi panchayat in Kowthalam mandal on Saturday. According to sources, Lakshmi, a YSRC-backed candidate for the sarpanch post, won the election by defeating her nearest rival by 17 votes.

TAKING CONTROL

Covid spurt: TS village in self-lockdown

ENS @ Jagtial

ADMIT rising Covid-19 cases, Sirpur village in Mallapur mandal of Jagtial district went into a self-imposed 15-day lockdown, which came into effect on Saturday. The village currently has 38 active Covid-19 cases and all the residents who contracted the virus are under home quarantine.

"To avoid further spread of virus, the executive body of gram panchayat passed a unanimous resolution imposing the lockdown," Sarpanch Bukya Govind Naik said. As per the resolution, the residents are now restricted from travelling out of village unless there is an emergency and it also prohibits entry of outsiders. The panchayat also decided to regularly disinfect the streets.

Despite the restrictions, the panchayat announced two four-hour relaxations -- 6 to 10 a.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. — for the villagers to buy the essential commodities.

All commercial establishments including restaurants and barber shops will have to remain shut.

Also, shop owners have been directed not to sell goods to customers who are not wearing face masks.

HELPLINE
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
For Subscriptions & Supply related Complaints
Call / WhatsApp
9886143555
7 AM - 4 PM MONDAY to SATURDAY

Boy killed over PUBG fight, minor held

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

IN a shocking incident, a 12-year-old boy was found murdered at KC Road near Mangaluru on Saturday night, following a fight over PUBG. One person, said to be a minor, has been arrested by the police.

The deceased boy's father Mohammad Haneef, in his complaint to Ullal police, alleged that his son had gone out to play PUBG along with his friend and others. He said his son took a mobile phone and left home around 8.45 pm on Saturday night. His body was found on Sunday, behind his school ground. Haneef alleged that when he inquired about his son, the friend's family did not give a satisfactory response. "Hence, my son might have been murdered by his friends," Haneef said in his complaint, also urging legal action against the culprits.

Mangaluru City Police Commissioner N Shashi Kumar on Sunday morning visited the residence of the deceased and also the spot where the body was found. "Akif was a Class 6 student of Falah School in Ullal. He was assaulted 20 metres away and shifted near a compound wall. Akif's father has said that his son might have been a victim of a game-related feud and wants it to be banned. We interrogated a minor, who is a friend of the deceased. He has confessed that he attacked Akif and has been arrested," Compol said.

The Commissioner added that the deceased and the minor boy used to play PUBG games online and Akif used to win every time. "Irked over this, the accused challenged Akif to win against him in a face-to-face game. Hence, they both started playing on Saturday night and Akif reportedly lost the game. This led to a verbal clash and Akif allegedly pelted a small stone at his friend. His friend got enraged and threw a big stone at Akif, causing him serious head injury. He died on the spot due to heavy bleeding. Later, the accused hid the body near a compound wall, covering it with banana leaves and coconut palms, and returned home. The police have taken the minor accused into custody.

Pinarayi: Nothing wrong with Jayrajan's FB post

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kannur

EVEN as the controversy over the 'captain' tag for Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan continues to rattle the state CPM, Pinarayi came out against the media for blowing out of proportion the FB post of party's former district chief P Jayarajan. Addressing the meet the press programme organised by Kannur Press Club on Sunday, Pinarayi said that he had gone through the FB post of P Jayarajan, which was published by a newspaper, and found nothing wrong.

"Jayarajan has said nothing wrong. If you follow Jayarajan regarding this, it will be useless," he said.

"We, Communist leaders, don't believe in personality cult. Its quite natural that, people will treat you like this. But, if one were to misconstrue this as his/her personal greatness and the same goes to the person's head, then that becomes a major problem. Normally, Communist leaders are immune to this. But in the event of anyone committing such mistakes, the party will step in. I have seen enough of such public adulation and like a true Communist always remain vigilant in such situations," he said.

'CM is a team leader'

Kannur: Clarifying on his statement issued on Saturday that there is no captain in CPM, former Kannur district secretary of the party P Jayarajan wrote on Facebook that the right wing media was discussing the issue will ill intentions. He said LDF is contesting the election unitedly and Pinarayi is the team leader. "He led the government by keeping all the promises made during the pervious election. There is no need to show intolerance towards him," he wrote.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023

No.: DHS/BEC/PG-DEG/39/2013-14 Date : 03.04.2021

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for the post of **'Legal Advisor'** in the Department of Health & Family Welfare. The appointment is purely on contractual basis for a period of 2 years, extendable by one year after review of previous year's performance. Remuneration will be appropriate to the work.

Eligibility Criteria: 1) The Candidate should have been registered in the Bar council Karnataka. **Preference will be given to**: 2) The Candidate with higher qualifications. 3) The Candidate who has experience in handling Administrative and legal matters in KAT and HIGH COURT. 4) The Candidate should have minimum 15years of experience in legal services. 5) The Candidate must be below 60 years.

The hard copies of application can be submitted to: Chief Administrative Officer, Health & Family Welfare Services, 5th floor Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023. 1) Applicant can send scanned copy of documents to following e-mail id: caoadmkar@gmail.com 2) The office for the legal advisor will be in the campus of Commissionerate of Health & Family Welfare, Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bangalore -560023. 3) The last date for submission of application will be **12.04.2021 upto 5.00 PM**, IST. 4) For more details or queries, applicant can send email to caoadmkar@gmail.com

DIPR/DDU/YC/016/2021-22 **Sd/- Chief Administrative Officer**

COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

VISVESVARAYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Registered Office:- Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, #148 Embassy Square, Ground floor, Infantry road, Bengaluru 560 001. Phone No:- 080-22256688/22289966 Fax No:- 080-22264477
e-mail:- mail@vjnl.in Website:- www.vjnl.in CIN-U41000KA2016SGC097260

Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No.01, Kadur. e.mail I.D : eeubpdvn1@gmail.com Ph. No: 08267-295207

No: VJNL/UBP/EE/D1/Kadur/Tender-5/TankFilling/2020-21/903 Dated: 31-03-2021

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

(Only through E-PROCUREMENT SYSTEM)

Percentage short term retender through e-portal in Two cover system is invited by the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP, Division No. 1, Kadur on behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd, from the VJNL/ KNNL enrolled category-I Contractors who fulfills the pre-qualification conditions for the work **"Construction of Lift scheme for "Lifting of Water From UBP Intake canal from Ch:10+765 Km (before Shanthipura pump house) and delivering to Ch:11+044 Km (Lift-1) and conveying water through UBP Main Canal and further lifting water from UBP main canal at Ch:25+700 (Lift-2) upto delivery chamber near Doddaghatta village (RL 835.00) including providing auxiliary lift-1 for filling tanks in Tarikere Taluk and construction of gravity feeders from delivery chamber-1 to Devankere tank. Improvements to Devanakere tank and gravity feeder-2 for initial length towards Tangali Tank including Operation and Maintenance for 5 years after the date of completion of work".** The Contractors can download and submit the completed bid documents through e-procurement website **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from **05.04.2021** to **05.05.2021** upto **16.00** hours. Details such as Amount put to tender/ qualification of Bidders/ Tender conditions/Tender processing fee etc can be obtained through e-procurement or from the office of the under signed during the office hours upto **17.04.2021 (13.30 hours).** The tender will be opened on **06.05.2021 @ 4.30 P M** at the office of the Executive Engineer, VJNL, UBP Division No.01, Kadur through e-procurement. The date of opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to the qualified bidders. The authority competent to accept the tenders shall have the right of rejecting all or any of the tenders without assigning any reasons and will not bound to accept the lowest tender.

Note: EPF Registration Certificate is mandatory the tenders of the bidder who fails to upload EPF Registration Certificate will be disqualified.

Sd/- Executive Engineer

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟ ನಿಯಮಿತ,
ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡೇರಿ ಆವರಣ, ಕುಲಶೇಖರ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು 575 005
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : (0824) 2230986 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ :2230029

ನಂ: ದಕೆಹಾಒ: ಆಡಳಿತ: 24: 2021-22 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.04.2021

ಟೆಂಡರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸುವ ನೋಟೀಸು
(e-PROCUREMENT PORTAL OF GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA)

ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಸಹಕಾರಿ ಹಾಲು ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರ ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬರುವ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡೇರಿ, ಮತ್ತು ಪುತ್ತೂರು ಶೀತಲೀಕರಣ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲವು ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ತುಂಡು ದರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದಲ್ಲಿ (piece rated contract) ಮತ್ತು ಯಾಂತ್ರೀಕೃತ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣವಾರು (spuare feet wise) ಮತ್ತು ಮಾನವ ದಿನಗಳ ಆಧಾರಿತದಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು **ದೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕವಾಗಿ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ** ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು ಹಾಗೂ e-Procurement Portal of Govt of Karnataka ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಅರ್ಹ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ (Labour contractor) ಎರಡು ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಮತ್ತು ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಬಿಡ್) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳವರು e-Procurement Portal of Govt. of Karnataka ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರು ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಕೆಲಸದ ವಿವರ	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.)
01.	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನಗಳ ತಯಾರಿಕೆ/ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್ ಮತ್ತು ಫ್ಲೈಯಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಲು ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರವಾನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ದೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ತುಂಡು ದರ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ.	40000/-
02.	ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲು ಪ್ಯಾಕಿಂಗ್ ಹಾಗೂ ರವಾನೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಮತ್ತು ಪುತ್ತೂರು ಶೀತಲೀಕರಣ ಕೇಂದ್ರದಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಲು ಶೇಖರಣೆ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ದೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ	40000/-
03.	ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾಂತ್ರೀಕೃತ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ದೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ.	25000/-
04.	ಒಕ್ಕೂಟದ ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಡೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನವ ಆಧಾರಿತ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛತಾ ಕೆಲಸ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಳ ದೈವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ	25000/-

1. ಟೆಂಡರು ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜುಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್ ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 03-05-2021 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ
2. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ : 05-05-2021 ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10-30 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ,
3. ಅರ್ಜಿ ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ, ಸಮಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸ್ಥಳವನ್ನು ನಂತರ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ: ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 8046010000 OR 8068948777
e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com

ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

EDITORIAL

We must transmit our intelligence, transport the materials and energies necessary for existence. We realise that of all conquests of man, what is most helpful in the establishment of peace is the complete annihilation of distance

Nikola Tesla

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

RAHUL UNSURPRISINGLY BURNS HIMSELF IN HARVARD INTERACTION

After being in the public gaze for over a decade, it is time handlers of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi admit interviews are not his strength. Monologues work to an extent, like his rather sharp speech giving the old ad jingle *Hum do, hamare do* a new spin to attack Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and crony capitalism. But then his inability to feed the media machine with new headlines each day to keep it interested is a critical deficiency. Well-timed stunts like jumping into the mid-sea thus showing his toned abs or doing push-ups do keep young fans drooling. But interviews? That is where he appears fidgety, ponderous and out of depth. His latest blunder was to wonder why the US was silent on what was happening in India—on charges like stifling individual freedoms and capturing institutions—in response to a macro geopolitical poser by former US under secretary of state and now Harvard professor Nicholas Burns on how the two democracies could come together to take on totalitarian nations like China. It was an unforced error as Burns did not ask any leading question.

Rahul's response drew flak as it was interpreted as seeking international intervention in domestic matters. Burns smartly sidestepped it with a straight face, showing how adept he is at diplomacy. The larger points Rahul made like finding an alternative global democratic paradigm to China's promise of prosperity through its Belt and Road initiative got lost in the self-goal. In the past, Rahul's interviews to Indian media were airbrushed by his minders before release, but that could not be done to the Harvard interaction.

One of the interesting takeaways of this round of elections is the extensive campaigning by Rahul's sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in various states for the first time. Her comfort levels with the electorate and the ease with which she answers impromptu media questions show her natural flair as compared to Rahul. With Rahul not sounding optimistic about regaining lost ground for his party in the Harvard interaction, perhaps the Congress president should look at talent instead of the natural heir principal while deciding on her successor.

COPS & A DISTURBING LACK OF COMPASSION

How far should police go to enforce the law? An officer in Odisha last week decided to penalise a postman who had his wife riding pillion without wearing a helmet. The violator was driven to a police station in Mayurbhanj district and detained till he shelled out the penalty of ₹500. The wife, eight months pregnant, was left to fend for herself on the road. The hapless tribal woman, after an agonising wait for her husband to return, walked three kilometres to the police station under blistering hot conditions. The pleas of the couple fell on deaf ears of the police personnel. As the media picked up the story the next day, the officer concerned was placed under suspension.

Police excesses in India are no new story, but such incidents show that the force has remained insensitive and arrogant at the core despite years of attempts at reforms. The law is meant to be enforced and there is nothing wrong in taking a violator to task. The police officer was right in asking why the pregnant woman did not have the safety of a helmet, but what she displayed also was an excessive use of force that no law permits and a disturbing lack of compassion. Last year, when the entire country was under lockdown, many of these same men and women in uniform had displayed exemplary humanity to help thousands of migrants who were trudging back home in gruelling conditions.

The problem lies in the system that vests immense and unaccountable volume of authority in police but does not train its very use. In India, the powerful and influential get away with murder but the poor and underprivileged bear the brunt of authority even for a minor violation, which is a major reason behind eroding public trust. Restraint in the use of authority must be the rule and not the exception. In 2019, according to the National Crime Records Bureau, 49 cases were registered against police personnel for human rights violations across the country; eight saw final form submission, but not one ended in conviction. That summarises the story.

Drone warfare is in its nascent stages but a surge is going to happen with rapidly developing technologies. War-fighting doctrines need to be shaped to absorb this new capability

UNDERSTANDING THE FASCINATION WITH DRONES

AMIT BANDRE

LT GEN SYED ATA HASNAIN (RETD)

Former Commander, Srinagar-based 15 Corps. Now Chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

Everyone seems to be captivated by drones and the Indian Army's demonstration of 'swarming' by drones on Army Day seems to have caught people's fancy. Before anything else, we need basic clarity on what a drone is. Autonomous flying platforms in one form or another have been around ever since aviation came into being but did not have the required smartness associated with such platforms of today. A drone, in technological terms, is an unmanned aircraft. It can be described as a flying robot that can be remotely controlled or fly autonomously through remote controlled flight plans and software embedded in its systems, working in conjunction with onboard sensors and GPS. At a lower level of awareness, what needs to be understood is that drones, just like aircraft, can be of two types—fixed wing and rotary wing. Both started with extremely low payload capability, which has now increased substantially based upon the type of avionics. For conventional operations and hybrid war, both types of drones can be armed with precision weapons that can be launched and guided to their targets, or worked with the aid of artificial intelligence. Copter-type drones can also be employed as robotic munitions carriers in 'suicidal' mode against field fortifications, hardened vehicles or logistics dumps.

The recent Azerbaijan-Armenia war over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh also seems to be the cause of the current interest. The deciding factor that ensured Azerbaijan's victory was the extensive military employment of drones in what has been one of those rare conventional wars in the last 15 years or more. Drones have been often spoken of and their role in Afghanistan is well known over the last 20 years but that is a different context altogether. The war in Afghanistan remained a below threshold battle after the initial entry operations. Drones there have been more in the mode of surveillance and precision kills of terrorist leaders or destruction of hideouts based upon accurate information. The killing of Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansoor (replacement of Mullah Omar) in May 2016 near the Pakistan-Iran border was ascribed to a drone attack as are many other such lower-profile killings. Interestingly the control of drone operations is done remotely from as far as Tampa, Florida, in the US through satellite-based communications.

In relation to conventional operations, why have drones suddenly acquired such a reputation? This needs a return to some earthy military basics. Just remember the possibility of a precision hit at the top of a bunker or a tank is always far less when it comes to artillery that fires parabolic. A hit by direct fire or by flat trajectory is what most protection caters to and that is frontal or broadside. Hence the tank is designed with thick armour plating in front, lesser protection at the sides and the least at the top. Bunkers similarly have strong frontal protection against direct flat trajectory fire and packed earth (or concretised) on top to cater for the possibility of a direct hit by a shell. Now with the drone, a top attack is always possible with precision direction and accuracy. The tank and all its variants are suddenly vulnerable even more than what they were to fast-moving combat aircraft or the attack helicopter. In the latter cases, the aircraft were manned and thus vulnerable, creating some competitive fairness in the battle between the aerial and the ground-based platforms. The coming of the armed drone changed much of that balance. You now have an autonomous, unmanned aerial vehicle loaded with artificial intelligence capability to discern its targets; its vulnerability is in comparison acceptable because of being unmanned. There are different ways by which such vulnerability can be neutralised and one of them is 'swarming'. Its military definition reads as: a battlefield tactic designed to maximise target saturation, and thereby overwhelm or saturate the defences of the principal target or objective. Simply put it is a high ratio of aerial machines in comparison to the targets below, tanks, artillery guns or fortifications, to enable a smother effect at the tactical level. It has an overwhelming effect on the defender that is being attacked from different directions, and the air defence systems may be insufficient to handle the quantum of drones in the swarm.

> The recent Azerbaijan-Armenia war over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh also seems to be the cause of the current interest. The deciding factor that ensured Azerbaijan's victory was the extensive military employment of drones

With the surge in Indo-US relations and the signing of the Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) in 2018, the field for acquisition and induction of armed drones into the Indian Armed Forces has opened up. 30 x Predator Sky/Sea-Guardians equipped with encrypted systems are being sought at a cost of $3 billion. They can fly for up to 48 hours with a payload of 1,700 kg. This deal would bolster India's military capabilities as the drones it currently possesses can only be used for surveillance and reconnaissance. Armed drones for strike in the continental context can be employed both in the offensive and defensive mode and act as force multipliers. They are particularly useful as platforms to be launched if surprised on a particular approach or a sector, before forces can build up. Copter drones for logistics resupply will emerge in large numbers in India with many companies attempting the connected technologies. Contingent upon payload capability, much of a force's logistics can be supplied through this means allowing for higher range of operational longevity, especially in the mountains. It will reduce troop fatigue and lighten up the burden of logistics planning.

In the field of hybrid warfare, armed drones will provide the Indian Army one capability that has been under much focus—trans-LoC strikes, without hot pursuit. The developing technologies will in due course provide multiple options to strike at terrorist leaderships, and training and holding camps. With capability to pinpoint locations due to communication intercepts, the ability to rapidly launch armed drones equipped with necessary artificial intelligence and armaments or munitions will transform the response mechanism. Even jungle hideouts in the J&K mountains or those in the Red Corridor can be engaged. All such responses will be without the inherent risk of a pilot being captured with the attached drama as was the case with the capture of Wing Commander Abhinandan.

Drone warfare is just in its nascent stages but the surge is going to happen with rapidly developing technologies. It is imperative that war-fighting doctrines are adequately shaped to absorb this new capability so that the Indian Armed Forces are fully capable of progressively exploiting them and converting them into war-winning means.

(atahasnain@gmail.com)

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE TYRANNY OF DISTANCE

HINDOL SENGUPTA

Vice President & Head of Research, Invest India, GoI's national investment promotion agency

This column started in my head when—to my surprise, a few Sundays ago—I reached Vrindavan from my home in East Delhi door-to-door in two hours flat. This was astonishing. I had grown up with my mother making not infrequent trips to Vrindavan and the task of reaching deep into Uttar Pradesh from Delhi always seemed arduous and taxing.

Things of course have changed because of a relatively new expressway that allows one to zip in and zip out, even with evening traffic. Our journey home the same Sunday in the evening took only two-and-a-half hours.

This expressway, and others like it snaking up and down the country, have brought places like Agra (from Delhi) within two hours of drive time and Meerut within the hour. A friend of mine in Dehradun is doing a countdown to the day, not far, when her drive time from the hills to Delhi would be halved to around four hours. India is now building highways at the pace of around 30 kilometres a day—a record—and aims to spend around one lakh crore rupees building highways in the next three years.

In a recent video that went viral on social media, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh showcased his major achievement—the construction of an arterial road that he had promised to get built or leave his position. The highway was constructed in record time.

In December 2020, the Indian government and the World Bank signed a $500 million project to build safe and green highway corridors in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. According to World Bank estimates, the organisation commits more funds to building roads than almost any other activity, for instance in social services or health and education.

Not since the British constructed railway lines across India has there been such a rapid development in connectivity in the country. There is, of course, a critical difference. The British built railway lines across India to establish their hegemony on their colony (it is another matter that Indian freedom fighters used the same lines—think of Gandhi's travels by train across India—to overturn colonial rule). The road networks that are being built today (a process that was brought to focus by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Golden Quadrilateral construction) seek to eliminate the tyranny of distance.

The question to ask is: What is this tyranny of distance?

The tyranny of distance is the gulf between what used to be described as two different worlds—India and Bharat. Elitist, well-to-do, upwardly mobile India, and the beleaguered, impoverished Bharat. Often this was used to depict the gap between urban and rural India too.

> The notion of distance is embedded in our colonised minds. A spate of new highways is collapsing barriers to aspirations in India. ... The idea of what it means to be a city-dweller and a small-town person is set to dramatically transform, all the judgements in those phrases about to go for a toss

But the truth is that this gap is smaller than ever before in India's history. The satellite television boom in the late 1990s and through the 2000s broke through this crack first; the coming of the mobile phone, followed by the internet—especially low-cost, high-speed, video-streaming internet—has further collapsed this gulf. Whatever distance that persists will now be resolved through this massive boom in road construction.

But make no mistake—this is not merely the resolution of a logistical challenge. This gulf is a difference in mindset. It is a difference perpetuated by India's elite and inhabitants of uber-Westernised enclaves who seek to keep, as the colonialists once did, 'the natives away'.

This would no longer be possible. The mofussil has and will become mainstream. This will change both the big cities and the smaller towns, the metropolis, and satellite towns. It will (already is) unleash socio-economic changes at a scale never seen before since the country won independence in 1947.

Indians have always been intrepid domestic travellers, for pleasure and to seek employment. The end of the tyranny of distance will turbo-charge this travel, this exchange, sweeping tastes, values, norms and morals from one end to the other end of the most diverse of nations.

The idea of what it means to be a city-dweller and a small-town person in India is set to dramatically transform, all the value judgements embedded in those phrases about to go for a toss.

In turn, the small towns and hamlets are not going to remain very idyllic. Already, fuelled in part by the work-from-home impetus of the Covid-19 pandemic, more Indians have sought to leave big cities and move to smaller towns, or at least have a second home in a smaller town, than perhaps ever. From personal experience, my own sister ended her two-decade love affair with Mumbai and moved, husband and daughter in tow, to Goa. Born and schooled in Jamshedpur, she declared on Facebook soon after that she finally felt once again truly at home—a small-town girl, back where she belonged.

This kind of sentiment was once seen as eccentric. But today it is commonplace. Increasingly, few of us fear the tyranny of distance because there is always a swift highway around, waiting to erase the distance.

(hindol.opinion@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Personality cult in CPM

The Kannur lobby of the Marxist party is facing an unconventional challenge, that of a personality cult around the CM (*Comrade vs Captain: As poll nears, unease in CPM grows*, Apr 4). The internal ferment will hurt the party there.

Ravi Mannethu, Pullad

Freeing the CBI

There seems to be a general feeling among non-NDA ruled states that the Centre is utilising the CBI as a tool to discredit them (*Parliament panel for new law to uncage CBI*, Apr 4). This is not good for our federal structure. The Centre should heed the panel's advice.

N A Joseph, Ettumanoor

Anger, sorrow and pride

The ghastly incident in which at least 20 soldiers died in an encounter with Maoists has evoked at once anger, sorrow and pride in us. The nation is proud of the jawans. Though Maoists no longer enjoy public support, it appears they had an inkling about the operation from some insiders. A thorough probe is needed.

M Somasekhar Prasad, Hyderabad

Another U-turn in K'taka

Karnataka's volte-face relaxing the 50% occupancy rule for theatres shows the government in poor light. The CM, known for his U-turns, appears to have buckled under pressure from the film lobby.

N J Ravi Chander, Bengaluru

Mother's anguish

This is with reference to *My daughter is corrupt, don't vote for her* (Apr 4). The fervent appeal of a mother to people in Alangulam constituency not to cast their votes for her daughter illustrates how politics is riddled with corruption. The mother's anguish also shows how senior citizens are subjected to humiliation.

S Arjun Prasanna, Chennai

CM has fulfilled promises

The interview with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami is interesting. He has fulfilled the promises of his leader, overcoming the challenges before him.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Politics amid pandemic

This is with reference to *Democracy even in times of Covid* (Apr 4). Political parties, in their scramble for power, are forgetting the havoc being caused by the pandemic. Kerala is now reeling under Covid-19. And the layman has to bear the brunt.

P K Sreevalsan, Kannur

Campaigning during Covid

On the one hand, the fear of the second Covid wave is looming and we hear about how those in congregations can become super-spreaders. On the other hand, we have political meetings where all safety norms are flouted.

K Jayanthi, Chennai

Need to work together

Had the historic 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka accord been implemented in letter and spirit, the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi would not have taken place and the massacre of Tamils avoided (*Vote abstention: India's ties with Sri Lanka*, Apr 4). Both the Lankan regime and Tamil groups should shun mistrust and work for the growth of the beautiful island nation.

Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Creating capable leaders

This is with reference to *Nurture leaders to ensure sustainability* (Apr 4). The article highlights the importance of able leaders for the growth of an organisation.

C Ghanshyam, Visakhapatnam

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**

Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 57, No. 81 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Mahua Moitra @MahuaMoitra
If true, shocking video of @BJP candidate for AC90 Ranaghat Dakshin - Mukutmani Adhikary & team distributing money door to door.

Kapil Sibal @KapilSibal
EC as Umpire. It's decisions often tainted, lost its dignity, elan. No third umpire to correct relaxing Himanta's ban

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
When Covid cases were at 1 lakh daily in April 2020, fell to 10, 000 by November, who was given credit by Andhbhakts? Now have cases risen to one lakh, who will now claim credit?

ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2021 DECIDE

If BJP has already won the election in Bengal why are Modi/Shah campaigning so hard here? They have brought great disrepute to the high office... But Bengal will be their Waterloo –Yashwant Sinha, Trinamool

Women and youth are the pivot for change in Assam. They have decided to elect a Congress led alliance govt for opportunities and development. Witnessed a vibrant crowd in Bongaigaon – Sushmita Dev, Congress

There is a big question on EC's neutrality. We want the EC to remove this question. It is not only the poll panel's duty, but a responsibility to the Constitution of India –Sitaram Yehchury, CPI-M

Didi-O-Didi taunt: PM insulting Bengal women as well, says TMC

IT cell to circulate the clip for hitting back at BJP, saffron leader admits jibe did not go well

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee and her party workers have been going all out to get support of women voters | PTI

THE Trinamool Congress is seeking to reap electoral dividend from PM Narendra Modi's repeated jibe at Mamata Banerjee by portraying his '*Didi-O-Didi*' taunt as an affront to womenfolk in Bengal.

The move could be a shot in the arm for the ruling Trinamool Congress which is going all out to woo women voters who form 49 per cent of the total 7.2 crore electorate.

"The way the Prime Minister used the remark is nothing more than a taunt. It is humiliation of our chief minister, who is the only woman administrative head of a state across the country. He (Modi) also insulted Bengal's woman by this remark. The way he utters the remark, sometimes lowering his voice, doesn't fit in Bengali sensibility,'' TMC minister Shashi Panja said at a press conference on Sunday.

Notably, Trinamool's firebrand MP Mahua Mitra had dubbed the jibe to taunts from a "streetside fellow".

Trinamool insiders disclosed that the party's IT cell was instructed to circulate Modi's remark and depict it as an insult to Bengal's women.

Mamata took several initiatives before the elections eyeing women votes and floated a new slogan '*Bangla Nijer Meyeke Chay*' (Bengal wants its own daughter) to sharpen her attack on the BJP by branding it as a party of outsiders. She launched Swasthya Sathi, a health insurance scheme, for women head of a family. In her manifesto, Mamata announced a monthly financial grant of ₹500 and ₹1,000 for the women from SC/ST community and financially backward class. "All these moves were to woo the women electorates. Even during her election campaign, she (Mamata) offers *pranam* to the feet of the women in gratitude while highlighting her difficulty to address rallies with a broken foot. While she is respecting the women, Modi is insulting her with *Didi-O-Didi* remark," asserted a TMC leader.

Even a section of BJP leaders admitted in private that Modi's remark has not gone down well. "The PM has good oratory skills and it catches the attention of the masses. The BJP, on most occasions, benefits from his speeches. But his jibe at Mamata has not gone well with the women,'' said a leader.

205
candidates are in poll fray for the third phase of elections in 31 seats in West Bengal

78L
voters will decide the fate of these candidates in the 31 seats. Over 38 lakh voters are women in this phase

Assam: BPF petition dismissed

Guwahati: The Election Commission on Sunday turned down a plea of the BPF to postpone polls in the Tamulpur constituency in Assam as its candidate has joined the BJP under inducement, and said under law adjourning election at this stage is allowed only if a candidate of a recognised party dies. The Bodo Peoples Front had alleged that its candidate from Tamulpur, Rangja Khungur Basumatary, joined the BJP on April 1 under inducement.

TMC goons beware: Yogi

Kolkata: Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath asserted that "goons sheltered by the Trinamool will be tracked and sent behind bars after the BJP forms government in Bengal. He said the murdered BJP karyakartas will get justice "after 28 days", referring to May 2. " After the counting of votes, we will teach you a lesson. Similar things happened in Uttar Pradesh four years back. In Bengal, we will punish those who are a part of the syndicate raj," the BJP leader said.

BJP's Suvendu Adhikari claimed a TMC member got `900 crore | PTI

'Coal mafia funds TMC campaign'

Kolkata: Senior BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari claimed that a highly placed member in Trinamool received `900 crore from coal mafia and cattle smugglers. Adhikari claimed that part of the proceedings was used for organising the election campaign of TMC. Another TMC turncoat Dinesh Trivedi said "corruption was institutionalised in Bengal under Mamata's regime". "The CM should not keep her eyes shut. She cannot act like Dhritarastra," he said.

EC junks TMC chief's plaint, says claims factually incorrect

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

REFUTING Mamata Banerjee's allegations of discrepancies during voting, the Election Commission indicated it is contemplating action under the relevant sections of the Model Code of Conduct and the Representation of the People Act.

Mamata had claimed genuine voters were not allowed to enter the booth at Boyal Maktab Primary School and it was done in the presence of the BSF. She remained on her wheelchair outside the booth before she was escorted away by the BSF.

Calling her complaint "factually incorrect" and "devoid of substance", the EC sought a report from the Special Observers Ajay Nayak (General) and Vivek Dube (Police), who submitted their final report on Saturday evening. It cited the reports by special observers and officials to say that there was "no mention of either outsiders or guns and goons capturing the said booth".

The EC also said allegations made against BSF jawans are "far from the truth". "It is a matter of deep regret that a media narrative was sought to be weaved hour after hour to misguide the biggest stakeholders which is the voters by a candidate who also happens to be the honourable CM. ... All this was done when the election process was/is on. There could not have been a greater misdemeanour," the poll panel added.

Later, TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that the EC's reply is biased and a reflection of the allegations made by the party time and again that the Commission is "acting in a partisan manner".

Congress has no vision for Assam, NDA will ensure growth: Shah

GUWAHATI: Union Home Minister Amit Shah pilloried the Congress for having no vision for Assam, saying the opposition party divides people to rule over them. "The Congress cannot solve any problem and their leader Rahul Gandhi comes as a tourist to the state. They have no vision for development," he told a poll rally in Barpeta district. In contrast, he said, the NDA's 'double- engine' government will continue to ensure growth of Assam. "I had come to you five years ago and urged you to repose faith in the PM and promised we will end violence and agitations. The BJP government and Modiji has ensured this during the last five years and now the state is moving in the path of progress and development." The NDA is committed to make the state flood-free and the Prime Minister has already initiated the process, the Union minister said.

There's no stopping Modi even in pandemic

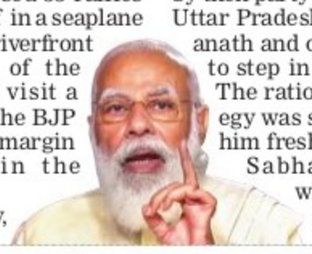
MANISH ANAND @ New Delhi

The political impact of the Covid pandemic isn't yet known, but PM Narendra Modi appears to have rekindled his intensity in Assembly elections as a campaigner after a lull in the intervening period following the 2017 Gujarat election till the start of Jharkhand poll in 2019.

Till Sunday, Modi had a whirlwind election tour clocking 23 rallies, while a few more are lined up for the last five phases of the Bengal elections. The PM, so far, held 16 rallies in Assam and West Bengal, and seven in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry.

In 2017, Modi lead the BJP's campaign in Gujarat during which he addressed 33 rallies besides taking off in a seaplane from Sabarmati riverfront on the last day of the campaigning to visit a temple. Though the BJP won the poll, the margin was reduced in the Assembly.

Subsequently, the BJP strategists reworked election campaign plans, with focus on building the grounds by then party chief Amit Shah, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and others for the PM to step in at the last stage. The rationale of the strategy was seemingly to keep him fresh for the 2019 Lok Sabha campaign in which he tallied 142 rallies in less than two months.



Going on campaign overdrive

Till Sunday, Modi had a whirlwind election tour clocking 23 rallies, while a few more are lined up for the last five phases of the Bengal elections. The PM, so far, held 16 rallies in Assam and West Bengal, and seven in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry

In 2018, Modi addressed 29 rallies in MP (10), Chhattisgarh (4) and Rajasthan (15). The PM kept the tempo for elections in Maharashtra (9), Haryana (4) and Jharkhand (10). The BJP lost power in Maharashtra and Jharkhand, and retained power in Haryana with a post-poll alliance with JJP.

Before political observers jumped to the conclusion that the PM's appeal in the states is on decline, the Covid pandemic appears to have turned Modi into an intense campaigner as the first election after the outbreak saw him leading from the front with 12 rallies in Bihar.

Subaltern & Muslim votes count in poll fight for Mamata

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This border region, with Assam, Bhutan and the hills adding variety to the proximity of Bangladesh, has a slightly distinct air and culture, separate from the rest of Bengal. They represent a spot of bother for her, but she'll certainly not let it go without a fight, whatever may the strategist's view be.

Quite surprisingly, here she focuses more on the bit players than on her main rival, the BJP. "Don't fall for that man from Hyderabad" or "the other one from Furfura Sharif," she says again and again. "Don't divide your vote."

Lest her target audience misses the point, she clarifies: "My friends from the minority and SC/ST communities, don't divide your votes." That's a nudge to them to stay away from Asaduddin Owaisi and Abbas Siddiqui, the man who floated a party (ISF) just last month and is in an alliance with the Congress-Left. The ISF, incidentally, has fielded more Dalit than Muslim candidates.

Owaisi's All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (colloquially shortened to everywhere here as MIM) is testing the waters in a few, limited seats here—and that may just suffice to cut a few crucial TMC votes in Cooch Behar and adjoining Uttar Dinajpur. Siddiqui (or Abbas Baba, as he's popularly known) is mostly present in the southern parts, where he has some strength. Not so much up there in the north. Not even in the central districts, which have a high Muslim concentration, and are going to polls in the last three phases. That's left to its partners to harvest their old fiefs. The TMC does need to maximise its gains here, while cutting its losses elsewhere.

The old status quo where central Bengal was seen as a traditional secular Congress stronghold, with a smattering of Left presence, has been broken with communal polarisation. Which is at an all-time high now. Hence, the scramble for 30-40% minority votes in about 70 constituencies—between the Sanjukta Morcha (of the Congress-Left-ISF) and the TMC—each rivalling the other to corner anti-BJP votes.

Meanwhile, the BJP, which had swept the 2019 Lok Sabha seats in the north, particularly in Cooch Behar, is freely preying everywhere on anti-incumbency votes. And of course, that of neo-converts to Hindu identity politics—a new, burgeoning phenomenon in Bengal. Many districts go to polls only later this month, but work is in full swing. So are WhatsApp videos. The latest is from Siuri, Birbhum, where a Muslim congregation is seen supposedly pledging its votes to saffron!

The TMC strategist, for his part, is least bothered. "Let them (as in, BJP) take all the 27 seats in the north. How does it matter? Contrary to propaganda, we've done well in the first two phases. And we're winning Nandigram."

No escape from Nandigram! The BJP is all too happy to keep the narrative pinned to what they like to call "Didi's Waterloo". And thus conjuring up an image of Mamata leading a retreating army, and letting that flow into public consciousness.

The strategist asserts all the Nandigram polling brouhaha and the battle of perspectives thereafter, around who won, will have "no impact" on the next rounds of polling. "It's done and dusted." Well...speculation is meanwhile rife that Didi may be looking for a second seat, perhaps in Birbhum. How come? It was sparked off by none other than the Prime Minister. TMC strategists and Didi's war-room aides vehemently deny any such possibility.

If Didi has the final say on this or anything else, the strategist is poised as a prime influencer of sorts. The influence seems gradually waning, though. As of now, the strategist is discouraging Urban Development Minister Firhad (Bobby) Hakim and MP Nusrat Jahan, both articulate TMC leaders, from campaigning in non-minority-dominated areas. Demands from candidates notwithstanding. The polarisation is that complete.

Didi herself, however, brooks no such rules. Reciting Chandipath on stage and mentioning her *gotra* (duly mocked by the 'Hyderabadi') is no longer her focus as she vociferously courts the minority and SC/ST voters. Didi knows if the TMC cannot maximise its seats in Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum and Burdwan, the game would close in on her. The Morcha may not be making headlines, and may be laughed off as 'old nostalgia' with no electoral impact on the ground by the strategist, but Didi clearly thinks otherwise. When every vote counts, she cannot allow even a semblance of Muslim-Dalit alliance—a partly novel idea in these parts, emanating from Abbas Baba, his Morcha, or Oswaisi's acid tongue—break her wider social alliance.

Particularly, when in Nadia, Hooghly, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, the BJP is mining local anger with a potent mix of religiosity, to its advantage. Tactically, Didi is now playing opposition politics to stop subaltern votes from deserting her. Didi can really get as bipolar as Bengal when she wants!

LET'S READ INDIA

Library on wheels inspire people to grow beyond social media, go back to books

The group now boasts of over 10 lakh books on a variety of subjects | EXPRESS

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

ONE of the negative fallouts from the all-pervasive social media is that it has almost killed the reading habit. To revive this habit, a group of IT professionals and engineers has come together to start the 'Let's Read India' movement in Maharashtra by taking their library to the people's doorstep.

The campaign started a few months back in Maharashtra and in a short period, the group has more than 10 lakh books on a variety of subjects. Prafulla Wankhede, one of the founders of the campaign, says it's getting an overwhelming response. "Our primary objective is to bring this WhatsApp and social media generation back to books. We want to rekindle the reading habit and culture among them. It will make them better educated and more civilised citizens," he said.

Wankhede said their library van goes to remote places lacking major facilities lack. "We want to reach out to every person who wants to read a book. We have three mobile libraries now. People can borrow books for a week for free with only one condition: the borrower should submit a 300-word review about the book to be able to take a second book," he said. "Otherwise, people take the book and use it to adorn a corner of their home. Our objective is to ensure people read."

"Those who want to get books can connect through our social media site/website and app. This will enable them to know the locations of the mobile library that has GPS attached. Besides, there is a QR code for each book. The mobile library makes the weekly visit to the identified locations," Wankhede said.

Initially, 'Let's Read India' Foundation had planned to start the initiative in Maharashtra, Goa and Madhya Pradesh, the plan was shelved because of the pandemic situation. "We are now focusing on Maharashtra. In the next two years, we will be able to connect each and every village of the state," said Wankhede. "Once we grow in Maharashtra, we'll then shift our focus to the rest of the country."

The foundation also plans to start a YouTube channel where well-known authors' speeches, interviews and reviews will be played. "We not only offer books, we also suggest what should be read. There are many people who are really confused about their reading choices. If they are able to read the kind of books they want, it will help them in their academic and professional life," said Wankhede.

LAND FOR TEMPLE

The J&K administrative council has sanctioned granting 62 acres in Majeen village for the Tirumala Tirupathi Devasthanams, that governs Lord Venkateswara's shrine in Andhra Pradesh's Tirumala, to build a temple

1,011 BOOKED AT A RELIGIOUS EVENT IN MAHA OVER COVID RULES

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	33	27
Bhopal	40	24	Panaji	33	25
Jaipur	38	24	Patna	38	22
Amritsar	32	19	Lucknow	38	25
Chennai	35	26	Port Blair	31	25
Kolkata	35	25	Imphal	32	11
Srinagar	18	07	Chandigarh	40	23

A father's desperate ride in lookout for son

Elderly school teacher travels 600km after hearing about the Maoist attack, only to find his uniformed son's body

EJAZ KAISER @Raipur

AS media reports about the Maoist attack on the security forces in south Bastar started trickling in on Saturday morning, a distressed elderly teacher desperately tried to seek information about the safety and well-being of his son — a sub-inspector in the Special Task Force (STF) of Chhattisgarh Police.

Deepak Bharadwaj was leading the joint party of forces that was trapped in the Maoist ambush. When he got no information till late night about his son, a worried Radhelal left home at Malkharaoda in Janjgir-Champa for Bijapur, consistently praying for Deepak's safety all along his road journey.

The old man travelled 600 km with the hope to find Deepak safe and had planned to accompany him back to Raipur. But destiny had something else in store for him. He rushed from one hospital to other looking for his son before he came to know on Sunday evening that his son had died in the exchange of fire with the Maoists. A shocked Radhelal rushed to the hospital where the bodies of the deceased personnel were brought. Holding his breath, he watched as the bodies were taken out of the ambulance. As the sixth body was taken out, he collapsed in tears — it was that of Deepak. "I am totally shattered and don't know how to share the news with my family. I had last spoken to him on Holi," the inconsolable father exclaimed.

Deepak joined the police in 2013 at the age of 23 years.

A paramilitary personnel, injured in an encounter with Maoist rebels, undergoing treatment at a hospital in Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh on Sunday | PTI

FATAL MAOIST ATTACKS DURING LAST ONE DECADE IN CHHATTISGARH

April 6, 2010 — 76 security personnel killed in Dantewada
May 17, 2010 — 36 persons, including 12 SPOs, in Dantewada
June 29, 2010 — 27 CRPF jawans in Narayanpur
Aug 19 2011 — 11 security personnel in Bijapur district
May 13, 2012 — 6 CISF jawans near NMDC plant in Dantewada
May 25, 2013 — 27 people, including 12 Congress leaders and 8 security personnel in Sukma
March 11, 2014 — 15 CRPF personnel, 5 state police personnel
March 11, 2017 — 12 CRPF jawans in Sukma
April 24, 2017 — 25 CRPF personnel in Sukma
March 13, 2018 — 9 CRPF troopers in Sukma
July 2018 — 4 BSF jawans at Kanker
April 9, 2019 — 4 security personnel and BJP MLA Bhima Mandavi in Dantewada
March 22, 2020 — 17 police personnel in Sukma
April 3, 2021 — 22 jawans and policemen in Bijapur

Raj youth dies in custody, five MP cops suspended

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bhopal

FIVE personnel of the Narcotics Wing of Madhya Pradesh police in Mandsaur district have been suspended after a 21-year-old Rajasthan youth allegedly died in their custody.

Sohail Khan, a resident of Pratapgarh district of Rajasthan, was arrested on Friday for allegedly possessing a narcotic substance, but died the next morning in custody.

The victim's family alleged that Narcotics Wing Sub Inspector Rajmal Dahima had demanded ₹45 lakh from them, threatening that if they failed to give the money, Sohail would be implicated in a false case.

According to Mandsaur SP Siddharth Chaudhary, "A judicial probe has been recommended. The autopsy of the body will be performed by a panel of doctors and the procedure will be videographed."

According to sources, five personnel, including SI Dahima, have been suspended.

The deceased youth's 29-year-old brother-in-law Asif Khan (a native of Pratapgarh which borders Mandsaur) told this newspaper on Sunday that Sohail and he was on way to Mandsaur on Friday afternoon for making purchases for a marriage, when their motorcycle was stopped by a Scorpio boarded by three plainclothes policemen, including SI Dahima.

Sohail Khan (21)

"They took the keys of our motorbike and herded us in their vehicle, asking us where is the *maal* (drugs). We told them that we are farmers. However, without listening our words, they kept on thrashing us. We were taken to the police station and were beaten separately with belts," Asif said.

"At around 8 pm, they telephoned one of our relatives Izhar alias Babloo Khan, who is a Community Liaison Group member of police in Pratapgarh. He came to Mandsaur, where I was handed over to him, after he made some payment to the policemen," Asif alleged further.

Seconding Asif's allegations, Babloo Khan said, "I was called by SI Dahima to Mandsaur, where he allowed Asif to go upon payment of ₹4.5 lakh. He demanded ₹45 lakh for releasing Sohail and threatened to frame him in NDPS case if we failed to pay the amount."

Gunfight in tough terrain led to high casualty

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE 22 personnel killed in the gunfight of April 3 include eight each from the elite CoBRA battalion of the CRPF and the District Reserve Guards (DRG), six from Chhattisgarh's Special Task Force (STF) and one from the CRPF's Bastariya Battalion. While the number of casualties on the side of Maoists could not be established, a body of a Maoist leader with an INSAS rifle was recovered. She has been identified as Madavi Vanoja, believed to be the commander of the Local Guerilla Squad (LGS) of Pamed area.

Officials said the troopers were attacked with UBGL rocket launchers, LMGs and other weapons. It took almost 24 hours for the reinforcements to reach the ground zero near the villages of Jonaguda and Tekalgudam, close to the Silger forested landscape on Sunday.

The Friday night operation was launched based on intel input on the assembly of Maoist leadership. The detachment came under attack after a combing operation on Sukma-Bijapur border. "Since the terrain is tough and once firing is opened, pushing in reinforcement is difficult since you do not know the strength and position of your enemy right away and you want to avoid friendly fire. In such situations, your training and your instinct are your only support systems," said a highly placed police official. "They continue to engage the forces over long a period. They launch an all-out attack once our personnel run out of ammunition," the official further said.

The attack was led by the ruthless PLGA battalion number 1 of the CPI (Maoist). This battalion comprises nearly 100-150 armed guerrillas.

> **Since the terrain is tough and once firing is opened, pushing in reinforcement is difficult since you do not know the strength and position of your enemy right away** — A Chhattisgarh police official

Will set up more security camps in remote areas: CRPF DG

Raipur: Maoists are "frustrated" because security camps have been set up in remote areas of Chhattisgarh and this process will be speeded up now to launch more serious operations against them, CRPF Director General Kuldiep Singh said. He said "lessons are learnt" from every incident and they will see and analyse "what changes have been brought by the Naxals" to effectively counter them. Singh said the Maoists are frustrated and troubled because of the induction of five new battalions in the Bastar and the creation of new bases in remote areas. "They (Naxals) think if they mount heavy casualties on us they can deter us... But this does not happen," he said. The DG asserted that the new camps "will be established and now this process will be made fast so that we can launch more operations."

Attack will be avenged, says Shah; cops to submit report to MHA today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday evening to take stock of the situation in Bijapur following the encounter. Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Intelligence Bureau Director Arvind Kumar and senior officials of the home ministry and the CRPF attended the meeting.

Shah, who returned to Delhi cutting short his poll trip to Assam, said, "Our security men have lost their lives. We will not tolerate this bloodshed and a befitting reply will be given at an appropriate time."

"Our fight against Naxalites will continue with strength, perseverance and intensity and we will take it to the end," the ministry said, in an official statement.

Shah also spoke to Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel, who told him that the Naxals have indulged in such act just to make their presence felt as people are getting disillusioned with the Maoists ideology.

The Chhattisgarh Police will submit a report on the encounter to Union Home Ministry on Monday, sources said. The report will be submitted first to CM Baghel before being sent to the Centre, they added.

Baghel said the incident showed the desperation of the Maoists "who are now restricted to the small pockets" in south Chhattisgarh. "Our fight against the rebels will continue till we achieve a Maoist-free Bastar," he said.

Baghel, who was spearheading the Congress' election campaign in Assam, returned to Raipur on Sunday evening and faced criticism from opposition for his preoccupation with Assam polls.

Opposition flays CM over poll campaign

CM Baghel, who was spearheading the Congress campaign in Assam, returned to Raipur on Sunday and faced criticism from opposition. The state is paying the price for his "irresponsible attitude and poor governance", said BJP's Dharamlal Kaushik

UNMET DEMANDS

Ambush comes 2 weeks after peace talk call

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Raipur

THE banned CPI (Maoist) had expressed its readiness for peace talks with the Chhattisgarh government around two weeks ago and laid down three preconditions.

The outfit demanded the removal of camps of armed forces from conflict-ridden areas, revoking the ban imposed on Maoists and the release of their party leaders languishing in jails. But the state government rejected the proposal outright.

"We can't accept such preconditions. For initiating any peace talks the Naxals have to first lay down their arms and accept the democratic values," CM Bhupesh Baghel had asserted.

The Bijapur incident was the second major Maoist attack inflicting casualties on security forces in the last ten days in Bastar region.

"The Bijapur incident was not an encounter but a war. It shows the frustration of the Maoists who are restricted to small pockets of Bastar as more and more security camps and development are seen in their areas of influence. They are fighting the last battle with our forces whose sacrifice will not go waste," said the CM who ruled out any intelligence failure behind the incident.

Help of RSS, Congress sought at Mahakumbh

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Dehradun

AMID fears of a spike in Covid cases during the Mahakumbh and rumours of shortage of police personnel to handle the crowd in Haridwar, the Inspector General of kumbh mela area has written to the Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh and the Congress Sewa Dal requesting assistance in crowd management.

The letter to state chiefs of both outfits explained the challenges of managing crowd and traffic during the *mela* and requested help in the form of volunteers.

Sanjay Gunjyal, IG, Kumbh told this newspaper, "Help was sought keeping in mind the work of both groups when it comes to public welfare."

Sumit Hridayesh, a member of the All India Congress Committee said, "Congress Sewa Dal has been always working for the people. Be it 2013 tragedy in the state or any other occasion, we have always put the people first. Sewa Dal will do as asked."

In June last year, Uttarakhand forest department in an unprecedented move had issued directions to include RSS in various official programs, attracting flak from the opposition parties.

EXPRESS READ

Minimum wages raised in Bihar

Patna: The Bihar government has hiked minimum wages for both skilled and unskilled labourers with effect from April 2 for next six months. The hike, made under the provisions of Minimum Wage Act, 1948, will be revised again in September this year as per prevailing inflation. The daily wages of unskilled workers has been raised from ₹292 to ₹304 while semi-skilled workers will be paid ₹316 against the earlier ₹304, skilled workers will get ₹385 against the earlier ₹375 and highly skilled workers will get ₹470 against the earlier ₹451.

No Gupkar meeting despite Mehbooba call

Srinagar: The Gupkar Alliance has gone totally silent since the first-ever DDC polls in Jammu and Kashmir last December and has not met despite PDP chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti's requests. Sources said Mehbooba, who is the vice-chairperson of the six-party alliance, had called up chairman Farooq Abdullah and requested him to convene a meeting of leaders of the alliance. However, sources said Abdullah, who is National Conference president and Lok Sabha MP from Srinagar, has been reluctant to convene the meeting.

CONCERN FOR FUTURE

Hit by poverty, couple gives away newborn twin daughters

MUKESH RANJAN @Ranchi

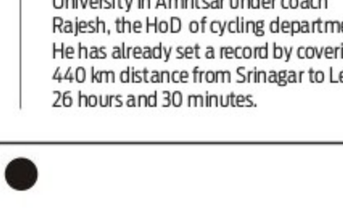
IN a heart-wrenching incident, a poverty-stricken couple gave away their newborn twin daughters to relatives in a village in Gomia block of Bokaro district. The couple, who already has three daughters and a son, said they were unable to raise two more daughters with their existing resources.

They claimed the decision was taken in the interest of the newborn girls and hoped the infants would be taken care of properly.

While the man is a daily wage labourer, his wife works as a domestic help in neighbouring houses in the village.

"Due to poor financial condition, we are struggling to bring up three daughters and a son. Now, it is not possible for us to afford the expenses of two more children. Therefore, we were compelled to give away our daughters to others," said the husband, Mein Kewat.

The couple has given away one child to a relative in Chandipur and the other to another relative in Hosir.



Mein Kewat and his family members

His elder brother Narisingh Kewat said Mein is somehow managing the bread and butter for his family and took the decision to hand over his newborns to relatives so that they would not have to face any problem in future.

"They (the couple) have also given in writing that they are willingly giving away their children to them (relatives) and would not make any claim on them in future," said Narsingh.

When the matter came to the notice of local administration, the officials conducted enquiries and found the couple took the decision due to poverty and no money was exchanged for handing over the children.

"We investigated the matter properly and found that the newborns were handed over to others willingly due to poverty. The couple has also given in writing that they are giving away their daughters to others without any pressure from anyone and no exchange of money or material took place in the entire process," said Gomia Block Development Officer (BDO) Kapil Kumar.

Mein Kewat has admitted that he is getting ration regularly under the public distribution system of the state government, the BDO further said.

Tulip festival amid Covid surge

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases in the Valley, especially in Srinagar, a six-day tulip festival started in Asia's largest tulip garden in the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday. Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, in the presence of Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan, inaugurated the festival. The event is being organised by the Department of Floriculture in collaboration with the Tourism Department. The festival comes at a time when the Valley is witnessing a surge in cases. Since March 25, the UT has recorded 3,408 Covid cases. Of these, 1,349 cases have been reported in Srinagar alone.

FAYAZ WANI
Our correspondent in Jammu and Kashmir
fayazwani123@gmail.com

SRINAGAR DIARY

Former J&K Bank chairman arrested

Former Jammu and Kashmir Bank chairman Parvez Ahmad Nengroo was arrested by the Anti Corruption Bureau for alleged illegal allotment of tenders for housekeeping works that led to the loss of crores of rupees to the bank. He was arrested on Saturday in a case filed in October last year against a private firm and three former bank officials, including Nengroo, for allegedly causing ₹6.92-crore loss to the bank by not following the tendering rules. Nengroo is accused of illegally allotting tenders for housekeeping to a Mumbai-based Company by not following proper tendering norms as provided in the contract and providing contract to the firm despite it not falling into the criteria for any such allotment. Irregularities were detected during an investigation into the losses incurred by the bank.

Kashmiri cyclist covers 3,600 km in 8 days

Adil Teli, a professional Kashmiri cyclist, created history by covering 3,600 kilometres between Kashmir and Kanniyakumari in a span of eight days, one hour and 37 minutes. Braving all odds, including rough terrains, Adil kept on riding to break the Guinness Book of World Record set by Om Mahajan, who had covered the same distance within eight days, seven hours and 38 minutes last year. Adil, who hails from Budgam district and is a passionate cyclist, has undergone training at Gurunanak Dev University in Amritsar under coach Rajesh, the HoD of cycling department. He has already set a record by covering 440 km distance from Srinagar to Leh in 26 hours and 30 minutes.

Panel to resolve staff issues formed

The J&K administration has constituted a committee to resolve issues vis-à-vis seniority of employees appointed under the Prime Minister's Special Package in different departments in the UT. The administrative secretary, Department of Disaster Management, will be the chairman of the four-member panel. The other members of the panel are administrative secretary, Department of Law; representative of the General Administration Department and representative of the PW (R&B) Department (not below the rank of Additional Secretary).

12 killed

and four remain missing after a fishing boat sank in east China's Zhejiang Province on Sunday morning

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	22	9	SNY	Los Angeles	24	8	SNY
Colombo	32	23	TDS	Melbourne	24	16	TDS
Dhaka	28	16	SNY	Moscow	8	2	LC
Dubai	26	17	SNY	New York	20	7	LC
Houston	20	9	SNY	Singapore	32	24	TDS
Istanbul	16	7	LC	Toronto	10	4	LC
London	7	0	LC	Washington	22	10	LC

Jordanian prince under house arrest over conspiracy

Hamzah, a harsh critic of the government, accused of trying to destabilise the country

AMMAN

JORDANIAN government on Sunday accused the country's former crown prince of conspiring with foreign elements in a "malicious plot" that threatened national security.

The half-brother of Jordan's King Abdullah II said he has been placed under house arrest and accused the country's "ruling system" of incompetence and corruption, exposing a rare rift within the ruling monarchy of a close Western ally.

Prince Hamza in the videotaped message

Prince Hamza Bin Al-Hussein's videotaped statement came after the country's official news agency reported that two former senior officials and other suspects had been arrested for "security reasons," even as authorities denied that Hamzah had been detained or placed under house arrest. In a video leaked to the BBC, Hamzah — a former crown prince stripped of his title in 2004 — said he was visited early Saturday by the country's military chief and told he was not allowed to go out, communicate with people or meet with them.

He said his security detail was removed, and his phone and Internet service had been cut. He said he was speaking over satellite Internet and expected that service to be cut as well. The BBC said it received the statement from Hamzah's lawyer. Hamzah said he had been informed he was being punished for taking in part in meetings in which the king had been criticised, though he said he was not accused of joining in the criticism.

He then lashed out at the "ruling system" without mentioning the king by name, saying it had decided "that its personal interests, that its financial interests, that its corruption is more important than the lives and dignity and futures of the 10 million people that live here." It is rare for a senior member of the ruling family to express such harsh criticism of the government, and any sign of instability in Jordan is likely to raise concerns among the country's Western allies.

Hamzah is a popular figure in Jordan. He is seen as religious and modest, in touch with the common people and similar to his beloved father, the late King Hussein. He has criticised the government in the past, accusing officials of "failed management" after they approved an income tax law in 2018. Whatever damage the crisis might have inside Jordan, however, appeared to have little immediate effect on outside support for Abdullah.

Nepal's opposition moves to topple PM Oli's govt

KATHMANDU

NEPAL'S main opposition party Nepali Congress has initiated moves to topple Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli and form an alternative government under its leadership with the support of the CPN-Maoist Centre and other parties.

The Central Working Committee of the Nepali Congress (NC) on Saturday decided to take initiative to form a new government under its leadership, according to party's senior leader Prakash Man Singh. The NC will ask Prime Minister Oli to step down and allow formation of a new government, said Singh. If he does not resign, the NC will move a no-trust motion against him in the House of Representatives and take initiative to form a new government under its leadership to save the democratic achievements of the past, he added.

There is very much possibility of regression threatening the democratic republic system hard earned by the people through various movements, as Prime Minister Oli's unconstitutional move has posed a threat to democracy, he added.

Being the main opposition and also a key partner of framing the Constitution of Nepal in 2015 it is our responsibility to protect democracy, he said.

A new govt will be formed: Prachanda

CPN Maoist-Centre chief Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' said a new government will soon be formed. "I am going to intensify talks. I am hopeful that a new government will be formed," he said

Prime Minister Oli's dissolution of the House of Representatives in December triggered a political crisis in Nepal. However, in a landmark ruling, the apex court in February reinstated the lower house of Parliament.

The political scenario in the country worsened after the Supreme Court last month nullified CPN-MC's merger with CPN-UML. The two parties had merged in May 2018 to form a unified Nepal Communist Party following the victory of their alliance in the 2017 general elections. "We will hold talks with all pro-democracy parties before forming a new government," Singh told PTI. Informed sources said that a faction of the ruling CPN-UML, Janata Samajwadi Party and CPN-Maoist Centre will also join the move if Nepali Congress takes initiatives to form a new government under its leadership.

PM Oli led government will lose majority in the lower house if CPN-Maoist Centre led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' withdraws its support, according to party sources. On Saturday, Prachanda said that the country's politics had taken a new turn after the NC decided to seek PM Oli's resignation and take initiative to form the next government under its leadership. *PTI*

RESURGENT PANDEMIC MUTES EASTER JOY FOR CHRISTIANS

VATICAN

CHRISTIANITY'S most joyous feast day was celebrated worldwide with the faithful far apart in pews and singing choruses of "Hallelujah" through face coverings on a second Easter Sunday marked by pandemic precautions.

From Protestant churches in South Korea to St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, many worshippers followed national or local regulations aimed at preventing transmission of the coronavirus. In some European countries, citizens lined up on Easter for their turn to receive a Covid-19 vaccine.

In the Lombardy region of Italy, where the pandemic first erupted in the West, a hospital gave a traditional dove-shaped Easter cake symbolizing peace to each person waiting to get vaccinated.

Pope amid Sunday's Easter Mass at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican | AFP

Many who came were in their 80s and accompanied by adult children. A soccer team in Lyon, France, opened its stadium as a vaccination center for the long holiday weekend. Some 9,000 people were expected to receive their shots there over three days as the French government tries to speed up the pace of vaccinations amid a fresh outbreak of infections.

In the Holy Land, air travel restrictions and quarantine regulations prevented foreign pilgrims from flocking to religious sites in Jerusalem during Holy Week, which culminates in Easter celebrations. Pope Francis lamented that the pandemic has prevented some churchgoers from attending services. *AFP*

Eggs with political messages in Myanmar

YANGON

ANTI-coup demonstrators in Myanmar decorated boiled eggs on Easter Sunday in the latest protest against the country's military junta. Myanmar has been gripped by turmoil since a February 1 coup ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

A protester writes a message on an egg in Myanmar Shan state | AFP

To coincide with Easter Sunday, scores of Myanmar protesters decorated eggs with political messages and left them on neighbour's doorsteps and hanging in bags on front gates.

Pictures posted on social media showed eggs adorned with Suu Kyi's likeness and three-finger salutes—a symbol of the resistance—while others said "save our people" and "democracy".

"I am Buddhist but I have joined this campaign because it is easy to get hold of eggs. I spent almost one hour decorating my eggs," one Yangon based egg decorator told AFP.

"I am praying for Myanmar's current situation to get back to democracy."

One Facebook group promoting the egg protest urged people to be respectful of Christian traditions on Easter Sunday. Myanmar's most senior Catholic, Cardinal Charles Bo, posted an Easter message on Twitter: "Jesus has risen: Hallelujah—Myanmar will rise again!" *AFP*

AT LEAST 50 killed amid flash floods in Indonesia

Landslides and flash floods from torrential rains in eastern Indonesia killed at least 50 people and displaced thousands, the country's disaster relief agency said on Sunday. More than two dozen others were still missing

LANDSLIDES ACCOUNT FOR 35 DEATHS

Mud tumbled down from surrounding hills onto dozens of homes in a village in East Nusa Tenggara province shortly after midnight. Rescuers recovered at least 35 bodies and five injured, sources said. Flash flooding killed at least six people elsewhere, according to the National Disaster Mitigation Agency

POWER CUTS HAMPER RELIEF WORKS

Relief efforts were hampered by power cuts, blocked roads covered in thick mud and debris as well as the remoteness of the area surrounded by choppy seas and high waves, said the agency's spokesperson, Raditya Jati

RIVERS BURST BANKS

In Oyang Bayang village, where 40 houses were destroyed, hundreds of people fled submerged homes, some of which were carried off by the floodwaters. In another village, Waiburak, three people were killed and seven remained missing when overnight rains caused rivers to burst their banks, sending muddy water into large areas of East Flores district

Homes surrounded by floodwaters in the village of Haitimuk in East Flores on Sunday | AFP

7 villages have been impacted

27 people are missing

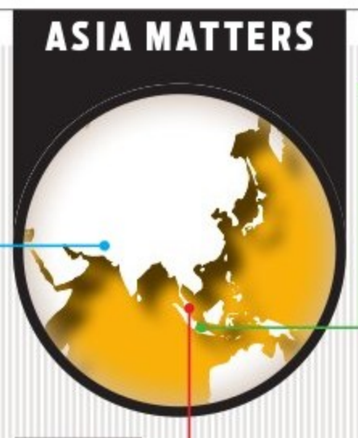
9 hours is how long heavy rains battered many areas

125 million Indonesians—nearly half of the country's population—live in areas at risk of landslides

DEATHS IN EAST TIMOR TOO

In Indonesia's neighbouring East Timor, at least 11 people were killed by floods in the capital Dili, authorities said

ASIA MATTERS



PAKISTAN

Anti-terror court jails Hafiz Saeed's aides

A Pakistani anti-terrorism court has sentenced five leaders of Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed's Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD) to nine years of imprisonment each in a terror financing case. Three of them—Umar Bahadar, Nasarullah and Samiullah—have been convicted for the first time since the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) Lahore pronounced its verdict some time ago in the terror financing cases registered by the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Punjab police. The other two—JuD spokesperson Yahya Mujahid and senior leader Prof Zafar Iqbal—had already been convicted for many years in other terror financing cases. ATC Lahore judge handed down nine-year imprisonment to each five of them. The judge also ordered a six-month jail term to Saeed's brother-in-law.

SINGAPORE

Will join Interpol-led task force on Covid scams: Report

Singapore is joining an Interpol-led global financial crime task force, comprising the US and UK, which will be looking into a number of areas, including Covid-19-related scams, according to a media report on Sunday. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said Singapore is joining the task force due to a need for greater international cooperation against the rising threat of cyber fraud, local media reported. "The situation has visibly worsened with more people working from home," an official said.

INDONESIA

Boat collision kills 2 fishermen, 5 hurt

A collision between a cargo ship and a fishing boat killed at least two fishermen and left 15 missing off Indonesia's main island of Java, officials said Sunday. The fishing boat capsised late Saturday with 32 aboard after hitting the Indonesian bulk carrier MV Habco Pioneer off Indramayu district, said Deden Ridwansyah, the head of the search and rescue agency. He said rescuers recovered two bodies on Sunday — one trapped in a fishing net about a meter (yard) beneath the surface, and another from inside the sunken vessel at 11 meters (36 feet) underwater. The remaining 15 crew were rescued, and local fishermen and the navy were searching for the missing, said a spokesperson for the sea transportation directorate general. Fishing accidents are common in Indonesia

Ukraine says soldier killed amid tensions

KIEV

RUSSIAN-backed separatists accused Ukrainian forces of killing a child in a drone attack on Saturday, as Kiev reported the death of one of its soldiers in a mine explosion.

Kiev has been battling pro-Russian separatists in the eastern Donetsk and Lugansk regions since 2014, following Moscow's annexation of the Crimean peninsula.

Reports this week swirled of Russian troop movements and an escalation of armed clashes, while Moscow and Kiev's Western allies exchanged warnings.

Self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) claimed that a five-year-old child was killed and a woman injured on Saturday in a Ukrainian drone attack.

A report by the DPR's news agency has not provided any images of the aftermath of the attack allegedly carried out in the village of Oleksandrivske some 15 kilometres from the front line.

Meanwhile, a Ukrainian soldier was killed when an explosive device went off near the village of Shumy north of the separatist's de facto capital Donetsk, the army said.

"A soldier from the Joint Forces received an injury incompatible with life," the Ukrainian military said in a statement. Ukraine this week accused Russia of massing thousands of military personnel on its northern and eastern borders as well as on the Crimean peninsula.

Moscow has repeatedly denied sending troops and arms to back up the separatists and Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov stressed on Thursday that Moscow is at liberty to move troops across its territory. Germany and France, called for "restraint" and "immediate de-escalation". *AFP*

MENTAL HEALTH

'Attacker who killed cop in Capitol Hill was delusional'

WASHINGTON

THE man who rammed a car into two officers at a barricade outside the US Capitol, killing one of them before he was shot to death by police, had been suffering from delusions, paranoia and suicidal thoughts, a US official told The Associated Press. Investigators believe it was an isolated incident from a disturbed young man.

Video of the Friday afternoon attack shows the driver emerging from the crashed car with a knife in his hand and starting to run at the pair of officers, Capitol Police acting Chief Yogananda Pittman told reporters. Police shot the suspect, 25-year-old Noah Green, who died at a hospital.

Investigators are increasingly focused on Green's mental health as they work to identify any motive for the attack, said the official, who was not authorised to speak publicly about an ongoing investigation and spoke to the AP on Saturday on condition of anonymity. The official said investigators had talked to Green's family, who spoke of his increasingly delusional thoughts.

In online posts since removed, Green described being under government thought control and said he was being watched.

He described himself as a follower of the Nation of Islam and its longtime leader, Louis Farrakhan, and spoke of going through a difficult time when he leaned on his faith. Some of the messages were captured by the group SITE, which tracks online activity. *AP*

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, my clients intend to purchase the Schedule property from its Owners: (I) **SMT. SHARADAMMA** D/o late Sri.Muniyappa, (ii) **SMT. RATHNAMMA** D/o late Sri Muniyappa, (iii) children of late **SMT. MARIYAMMA** D/o late Sri.Muniyappa, (iv) children of late **SMT. GOWRAMMA** D/o late Sri.Muniyappa and (v) children of late **SMT. JAYAMMA** D/o late Sri Muniyappa.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for this sale transaction, they are hereby called upon to file their objection/s in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, **within 14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of **5/6th undivided share of right, title and interest in land bearing Sy.No.239** measuring **4 Acres 38 Guntas** and 19 Guntas of Kharab land, situated at **Kengeri Village**, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk and bounded as follows:

East by : Gomala land of Doddabele village;
West by : Basavasamithi land;
North by : Land bearing Sy.No.240 of Kengeri village; and
South by : Kambhipura village boundary and Road

Sd/- **S.F.Goutam Chand,** Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru–560 004.

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II BENGALURU

"Jeevan Mangal Building" 1st & 2nd Flr.,No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025

O A No. 1799 of 2019

BETWEEN: UCO Bank, Jayanagar Branch, Bangalore ...APPLICANT
AND:
Mr.RAMESH G and others ..DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendant No.1: Mr. RAMESH G, S/o. Late Girlyappa S.G., Aged about 44 years, R/at No.63, 6th Cross, SBI Officers Colony, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore-560 079.
Defendant No.2: Mrs. VASANTHA, W/o. Late Girlyappa S.G., Aged about 63 years, R/at No.63, 6th Cross, SBI Officers Colony, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore-560 079.
Defendant No.3: M/s. ROYAL BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS, (A Partnership firm) having its Office at No. 001, Ground Floor, Royal Woods, Gourav Nagar, J.P. Nagar, BANGALORE, Represented by its Managing Partner, Mr. K.H. Mallikarjun.

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993, against you for the recovery of **Rs. 58,28,455/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Twenty Eight Thousand Four Hundred and Fifty Five Only)** together with current and future interest and for other relief. You are hereby summoned to appear & file written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on **03-05-2021** to answer the claim.

2. A copy of the Application is enclosed herewith. The copies of the annexure are also enclosed. You are directed to collect the annexure on your appearance before the Tribunal.
3. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement.
4. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed.
5. Take notice that, in default of, your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 24th day of March 2021.

Sd/- **Registrar DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BANGALORE**

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PERSONAL FINANCE

₹17,304 cr was invested by foreign portfolio investors in Indian markets so far in March — ₹10,482 crore into equities and ₹6,822 crore in the debt segment.

10 BENGALURU MONDAY 05.04.2021 newindianexpress.com

MONEY-WISE

Importance of critical illness insurance cover

Since the advent of Covid-19, a majority consider health insurance as a necessity

IT is unfortunate and seemingly on account of all-round negligence that, within the short span of a month, the dreaded Covid-19 virus, which seemed to be on the decline across India has returned with a vengeance in the form of a second wave.

Election rallies, mega celebrations for marriages, crowding at public places and a plethora of other reasons have been attributed for Covid-19's resurgence and it's already too late to cry over spilt milk. The situation reminded me of the large number of people who had contacted me after I wrote a column in this publication in August 2020 when the first Covid wave was on the upswing. Hereunder are select re-grouped excerpts thereof :

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
Head of LKW-India. He can be reached at ceolotus@hotmail.com

'Prior to the start of this financial year (i.e. 2020-21), barely ten per cent of those with the means, were interested in buying health insurance to cover new age diseases. But since the advent of the fear instilled by the pandemic, 71 per cent now considers health insurance a necessity. Notably, and almost overnight, 57 per cent of those surveyed now claim to understand the importance of comprehensive health insurance plans.'

Returning back to the present, this brings me to a very crucial Insurance product, namely critical illness insurance. Most people tend to overlook it believing that since they have Mediclaim they are adequately covered. But the fact is, firstly there has to be hospitalization for Mediclaim to kick in, and further, there are often caps and sub-limits that will easily be exceeded in the event of a critical illness. Furthermore, escalation in premium payable in case of mediclaim is a given, especially post a year like the last one where huge payouts have been made.

In contrast to this, there are Critical Illness insurance policies that offer the optional benefit of covering several (approximately 30 usually) critical illnesses such as cancer, heart attack and kidney failure for a maximum of 30 years without any change in premium. What also makes some of these product offerings distinctive is that it gives full claim payout on the first diagnosis of any of these covered critical illnesses, even without Hospital Bills. This payout amount is crucial as it can also safeguard one's family against the loss of income arising out of the illness that could put one out of action for a prolonged period of time. Some of the critical illness policies come bundled with an equivalent term plan and that usually adds an enhanced financial ring around the family of the one with a critical illness in the event of non-survival. That the payment of Premium paid under such a policy can be demarcated and qualifies for deductions under both, Section 80C as well as Section 80D of the Income Tax Act, offers an additional benefit.

Finally, one must remember that if ever diagnosed with a critical illness, it can affect one physically, emotionally and financially. By investing in a critical illness cover, one can at least take the inevitable financial pain and insecurity out of the equation.

How can you avoid TDS on bank fixed deposits

Tax benefits on investment in FD

An individual can claim deduction up to ₹1.5 lakh in a financial year (under Section 80C of the I-T Act) for investments made in fixed deposits. The amount so invested is deducted from income to arrive at the taxable income.

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FIXED deposits (FDs) are one of the most favoured instruments among investors as it provides guaranteed fixed returns and safety of capital. However, interest on fixed deposits is fully taxable, and this somewhat reduces the appeal of FDs. It will be added to your gross income and taxed at the slab rates that relate to your total income.

Banks are required to deduct tax at source or TDS at the rate of 10 per cent on FD interest.

However, in case your gross interest income from all FDs with the bank is below ₹40,000 per year, you need not pay TDS on the interest earned. For senior citizens, aged 60 and above, this cap is ₹50,000.

In case the depositor fails to submit a permanent account number (PAN) the bank will deduct TDS at the rate of 20 per cent. To prevent the bank from deducting TDS, you need to inform the bank that your income is below the exempted limit. You can submit Form 15G or 15H to the bank. These are self declaration forms in which you give an undertaking that your income is below the exempted limit.

Also, no TDS is deductible when your total income is less than the minimum taxable amount. For instance, some investors may have more than ₹40,000/50,000 interest income in a year, but their total income (including interest income) is less than the minimum exempt income. When there is no tax payable by the individual, the bank cannot deduct TDS.

For individuals aged below 60 years, income below ₹2.5 lakh is tax exempt. For those aged above 60 but below 80, income up to ₹3 lakh is tax exempt. Those aged above 80 years, income up to ₹5 lakh is tax exempt. However, in such cases, the bank will not deduct TDS only where you submit Form 15G or 15H to claim interest income without TDS. Form 15G (for non-senior citizens) and 15H (for senior citizens) should ideally be submitted at the beginning of the relevant financial year to avoid the whole hassle of additional TDS deduction and subsequent refund from the Income Tax Department. For instance, to avoid TDS in the current fiscal year (FY22), you should submit the forms now. It has to be submitted at every bank where you have a deposit.

GST to be levied on goods, services in gift vouchers

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

PUTTING all confusion to rest over taxability of gift cards or vouchers such as the ones by Shoppers Stop or Amazon, the Tamil Nadu bench of the Appellate Authority for Advance Ruling (AAAR) has ruled that GST would be levied on the underlying goods/ services at the time of redemption such pre-paid instruments. The recent AAAR order stated that the time of supply of gift vouchers or gift cards shall be the date of issue and further clarified that GST will be levied not on the supply of vouchers but on the underlying supply of goods and services at the time of redemption.

What added to the confusion was a separate order which said vouchers itself will be taxable. In fact, the earlier ruling on the issue also meant that different cards were taxed differently. Kalyan Jewellers India Ltd has approached the AAAR against the ruling by the Tamil Nadu state Authority for Advance Ruling (AAR), which had said that GST at 12 per cent or 18 per cent would be levied depending on whether such pre-paid instruments were paper based or magnetic strip based respectively. Modifying the AAR verdict, the AAAR has clarified that GST will be levied not on the supply of vouchers but on the underlying supply of goods/ services at the time of redemption and the time for payment of GST will be dependent on the provisions detailed in the GST law.

In its order, the AAAR said that vouchers are neither goods nor services and the GST law recognises it as an instrument of consideration (non-monetary form) for future supply.

"... since voucher is only an instrument of consideration and not goods or services, the same is not classifiable separately but only the supply associated with the voucher is classifiable according to the nature of the goods or services supplied in exchange of the voucher earlier issued to the customer," the AAAR said.

Abhishek Jain, tax partner, EY India said the taxability of vouchers has always been a grey area, both under the pre-GST and post GST regime. "This AAAR ruling is welcome and has provided appropriate clarity to the industry on the taxability of vouchers," Jain added.

Supply of goods or services is very essential to the GST framework. This is mainly because GST is a consumption based tax where everyone that adds value only pays tax on that portion.

EXPRESS READ

Ashok Soota unveils SKAN for medical research

New Delhi: IT veteran Ashok Soota has set up SKAN, a not-for-profit entity that will conduct medical research, and has committed ₹200 crore towards the effort. The research for the projects will be done through reputed partners, a statement said on Sunday. The strategic partner for neurological research is the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at Indian Institute Science-Bangalore (IISc), it added. CBR is putting together a consortium to handle the first project on Parkinson's disease.

Discoms' outstanding dues to power gencos rise

New Delhi: Total dues owed by electricity distribution companies to power producers rose nearly 17 per cent to ₹1,02,684 crore in February this year, reflecting persistent stress in the sector Distribution companies (discoms) owed a total of ₹87,888 crore to power generation firms in February 2020, according to portal PRAAPTI. However, total dues of discoms towards power gencos in February slightly dipped from ₹1,03,116 crore in January this year.

MFs turn net buyers, invest ₹2,476 cr in equities

MUTUAL funds invested ₹2,476 crore in equities in March, making it the first such infusion in 10 months, as consolidation in the market provided investment opportunities to fund managers.

Kaushlendra Singh Sengar, founder and CEO at INVEST19, said mutual funds (MFs) inflow in equities will be stagnant in near future. Prior to the inflows, mutual funds (MFs) had been withdrawing money from equities since June 2020, data available with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) showed.

"The markets were a bit volatile in March and at one point of time it was around minus 4 per cent to 5 per cent from the beginning of the month. If we see last few quarters, the market continued to surge and many investors were opting to book profits," Harshad Chetanwala, co-founder of Mywealthgrowth said.

He, further, said some signs of consolidation in the market do give opportunities to fund managers to invest in good ideas if they find them attractive. "While we will have to wait for industry body Amfi's data on subscription and redemption, volatility in markets would have also paused the redemption till certain extent and hence the fresh flows also would have found its way in the market as well," he added. Harsh Jain, co-founder and COO of Groww believes that the redemption pressure on mutual funds is reducing as the markets have remained consistent and there have been no major declines in the market despite the second wave. That might be helping with the investor's sentiments. Sebi data shows, MFs withdrew ₹16,306 crore from equities in February, ₹13,032 crore in January, ₹26,428 crore in December, ₹30,760 crore in November, ₹14,492 crore in October, ₹4,134 crore in September, ₹9,213 crore in August, 2020. *PTI*

New rules: Tax on PF interest, reduction in time limit of ITR filing

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

AS the new financial year begins, there will be a host of changes in how you spend money. Here is a look at all the changes that will impact your money in FY22:

Tax on PF interest

As announced in the Budget 2021, if deposits in Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Voluntary Provident Fund (VPF) by an employee exceed ₹2.5 lakh in a financial year, then the interest earned on the contributions exceeding ₹2.5 lakh will be taxable. Further, in case there is no contribution by the employer to the EPF account (usually in case of government employees), then interest will be tax-exempt for the deposits up to ₹5 lakh in a financial year. Thus, in the new financial year to avoid tax on the PF interest, ensure that the deposits in your EPF account do not exceed the specified limits mentioned above.

Reduction in time limit for filing revised ITR

Another Budget 2021 announcement was the reduction of the time allowed for filing belated and revised income tax return (ITR) by three months. The new rule is effective for the income tax return (ITR) filing for FY21. As per the earlier rule, if you had missed the deadline for filing ITR for FY-21, you would have had time till March 31, 2022, to file the belated ITR, albeit by paying a maximum penalty of ₹10,000. However, with the reduction in the time-limit now you have time till December 31, 2021, to file a belated ITR, thus three months less to file it. Besides, the government has clarified the penalty that will be levied on the filing of belated ITR. If an ITR is filed after the expiry of the deadline (usually, July 31, 2020) but on or before December 31, 2021, then the filer is liable to pay a late fee of ₹5,000.

No advance tax penalty on dividend income

Budget 2021 has changed the rules such that if there is a shortfall in advance tax instalment or failure to pay the same on time due to dividend income, then no penal interest shall be charged, subject to certain conditions. This relief is available from FY21.

Taxpayers can now revise audit reports to claim deductions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
@ New Delhi

BUSINESSES and professionals can now revise their tax audit reports, with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) introducing new rules to ease procedural hurdles in claiming deductions for spending.

In cases where the taxpayer makes certain payments such as taxes, duties, or cess or provident fund contribution of employees after the tax audit report has been submitted in an assessment year, a revised audit report signed by the accountant can be given to claim relief for that spending or payment, CBDT said in a notification. The Income Tax Act does not allows certain spending such as interest, royalty, or fee for technical services as a deduction while computing the taxable income of an assessee if the tax is not deducted at source and paid to the government. Also, spending such as provident fund contribution and leave encashment are allowed as an expenditure only in the year that it is spent.

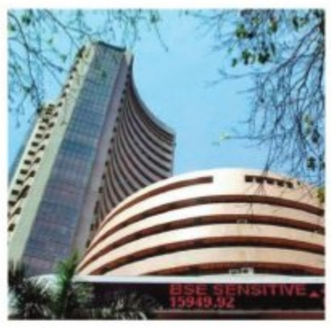
After the tax report has been submitted if the taxpayer makes payments, recalculation to the extent of expenditure eligible for deduction may become necessary. The new rule helps an assessee easily file a revised report and claim deductions. At the same time, the need on part of the taxpayer to explain the mismatched audit report and the claim for deduction also gets eliminated.

Businesses with sales of ₹1 crore or more and professionals with income more than ₹50 lakh have to file tax audit reports.

MARKET TREND

Nifty, Sensex likely to see further correction in coming days: Experts

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi



DESPITE the havoc caused by Covid-19 on the economy, there was no stopping the stock market. After the pandemic-led sharp correction in March 2020, markets worldwide recouped their losses in the financial year ended March 2021. In India, Nifty ended FY21 with 71 per cent returns, outperforming the MSCI World Index (up 51 per cent) and MSCI Emerging Market Index (up 55 per cent). In fact, the market delivered positive returns in all four quarters of FY21 and going forward, experts feel India's equity market may witness more correction on account of rising bond yields and the second wave of Covid-19.

"In the immediate future Indian markets could go in for some correction and consolidation phase but as time goes by it could recoup and standout" said Rusmik Oza, Executive VP, Head of Fundamental Research at Kotak Securities. Ozwa added that India's stable currency and bond yields could help attract higher FPI (foreign portfolio investment) flows in comparison to other emerging markets. He expects Nifty-50 to end FY22 somewhere 15,500 levels and Sensex to be at 52,300. If Nifty 50 goes below 14,000 levels then it will be an ideal time to accumulate stocks from a two to three-year perspective, he noted.

Axis Securities in its future looking commentary said Nifty may rise to 17,200 level by December this year. "Earnings growth for the entire decade from 2010-2020 was quite sluggish with an earnings CAGR of 7 per cent (doubling in ten years). However, the current expectations build for earnings doubling in the next 4 years translating to an earnings CAGR of ~18% which is quite significant" the brokerage house said.

It added that mid and small caps will continue to outperform the large caps in FY22. The Nifty midcap 100 and Nifty small cap 250 more than doubled beating the large cap NIFTY 50 in FY21. Sector and stock wise, Axis believes that IT and metal will continue to deliver good returns in FY22, while BFSI will hold the key but the trends from large private banks like ICICI continue to remain very strong.

Experts also note that the RBI policy decision and earnings season, which would start from mid-April, could be the next trigger for the market. "As Q4 earning season is approaching, investors' focus will shift to earnings announcements and management commentary," said Ajit Mishra, VP - Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹520

Target Price ₹720

BHARTI AIRTEL

BHARTI's superior execution quality is reflected in its strong performance over the past three quarters, with 8% ARPU growth without a tariff hike, leading to resounding EBITDA growth of 27% in Mobile India. It has certainly surprised with market share gains and quality customer acquisitions which have supported ARPU growth.

—Motilal Oswal Financial Services

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of *The New Indian Express*

Centre notifies new ITR forms for AY-2021-22

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Direct Taxes has notified new forms to file Income Tax Returns (ITR) for the assessment year 2021-2022. While some technical changes have been incorporated, the process has been kept largely unchanged.

"Keeping in view the ongoing Covid-19 crisis and to facilitate the taxpayers, no significant change has been made to the ITR forms in comparison to the last year's ITR forms," the CBDT said in a statement Only the bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the Income-Tax Act, 1961 have been made, the statement added.

The CBDT has notified a total of seven forms for various kinds of taxpayers for this assessment year. Form ITR-1, or Sahaj, and Form ITR-4, or Sugam, are simpler forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by an individual having income up to Rs 50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house property or other sources, like interest etc. Similarly, Sugam can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms (other than limited liability partnerships (LLPs)) with total income up to ₹50 lakh and income from business and profession computed under the presumptive taxation provisions. Individuals and HUFs that do not have income from business or profession, and are not eligible for filing Sahaj, can file ITR-2, while those earning from business or profession can file Form ITR-3. Taxpayers other than individuals, HUFs partnership firms, LLPs etc., can file Form ITR-5, whereas companies can file Form ITR-6. Trusts, political parties, charitable institutions, claiming exemption under the Income-Tax Act will have to file Form ITR-7.

The taxpayers will now have dedicated space in each of the ITR forms to describe their investments, CBDT said. Taxpayers need to report quarterly dividend income earned in FY21 in order to comply with advance tax provisions similar to how advance tax is calculated and paid on capital gains.

Besides, taxpayers will have to make a choice between the new and old tax regimes this year, as announced in the last year Budget.

Keeping in view the Covid-19 crisis and to facilitate the taxpayers, no significant change has been made to the ITR forms in comparison... Only the bare minimum changes necessitated due to amendments in the Income-Tax Act have been made

CBDT

Sahaj, Sugam forms cater mostly to MSMEs

ITR Form 1 (Sahaj) and ITR Form 4 (Sugam) are simpler Forms that cater to a large number of small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj can be filed by an individual having income up to ₹50 lakh and who receives income from salary, one house/ other sources. These forms are, however not meant for individuals who have invested in unlisted equity shares.

Aussie women claim record 22nd victory

Australia extended its ODI dominance by beating New Zealand by six wickets in the first One Day International at Mount Maunganui. Australia now has a winning streak of 22, overtaking Ricky Ponting's 2003 men's side for the longest run of victories in any form of international cricket.

SHOOTING STARS FOR JAPAN

Elavenil makes Olympic team in 10m air rifle event, quota winner Chinki Yadav misses out as NRAI names a strong squad

TOKYO 2020

10m Air Rifle Men
1. Divyansh Singh Panwar
2. Deepak Kumar
Sandeep Singh – Reserve Shooter
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar – Reserve Shooter

50m Rifle 3 Position Men
1. Sanjeev Rajput
2. Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar
Swapnil Kusale – Reserve Shooter
Chain Singh – Reserve Shooter

10m Air Pistol Men
1. Saurabh Chaudhary
2. Abhishek Verma
Shahzar Rizvi – Reserve Shooter
Om Prakash Mitharval – Reserve Shooter

10m Air Rifle Women
1. Apurvi Chandela
2. Elavenil Valarivan
AnjuM Moudgil – Reserve Shooter
Shreya Agrawal – Reserve Shooter

50m Rifle 3 Position Women
1. Anjum Moudgil
2. Tejaswini Sawant
Sunidhi Chauhan – Reserve Shooter
Gaayathri N. – Reserve Shooter

10m Air Pistol Women
1. Manu Bhaker
2. Yashaswini Singh Deswal
P. Shri Nivetha – Reserve Shooter
Shweta Singh – Reserve Shooter

25m Sports Pistol Women
1. Rahi Sarnobat
2. Manu Bhaker
Chinki Yadav – Reserve Shooter
Abhidnya Patil – Reserve Shooter

Skeet Men
1. Angadvir Singh Bajwa
2. Mairaj Ahmad Khan
Gurjoat Siingh KhanGura – Reserve Shooter
Sheeraz Sheikh – Reserve Shooter

10m Air Rifle Mixed Team
1. Divyansh Singh Panwar
2. Elavenil Valarivan
1. Deepak Kumar
2. Anjum Moudgil

10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
1. Saurabh Chaudhary
2. Manu Bhaker
1. Abhishek Verma
2. Yashaswini Singh Deswal

The shooting contingent had no medals to show at Rio Olympics

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

THE Indian shooting team for the Tokyo Olympics has been finalised. The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced a 15-member contingent for the quadrennial event on Sunday. With Covid-19 pandemic in mind, the federation named back-ups along with the team.

A notable inclusion in the squad is Elavenil Valarivan. Elavenil has earned a spot in the 10m air rifle event, a discipline where she's ranked World No 1. The quota won by senior compatriot Anjum Moudgil was used to accommodate her. Elavenil will line up alongside Apurvi Chandela. Even though Anjum lost the quota earned by her to Elavenil, she will still be part of the Games by competing in the 50m rifle 3 positions. That came at the cost of pistol shooter Chinki Yadav's quota. Both Anjum and Elavenil will also be competing in the 10m air rifle mixed event. Manu Bhaker was favoured ahead of Chinki in women's 25m pistol. The selection committee felt Manu, based on the overall performances of both the shooters, could take advantage of the double-start rule and compete in two individual events.

The postponement of Olympics had meant that the national body waited until the last moment to announce the team. Though the overall selection was more or less on expected lines, it was still a tough call for the selection committee, who sat for over five hours on Sunday, trying to get the math right and come up with a decision.

"We followed the Olympic selection policy across disciplines, Considering the way they (Elavenil, Anjum, Apurvi) were shooting, the selection is quite fair," Deepali Deshpande, India high performance coach, who was part of the meeting, said.

NRAI president Raninder Singh seemed content with the final selection and is hopeful that the chosen ones can go on to deliver in Tokyo. "The national selection committee's main focus was to select the strongest squad for the Games and to ensure that the most consistent performers in each event, during the course of this entire Olympic cycle, do not miss out. I believe they have done an excellent job on both those fronts and we are confident that this selection will deliver," Singh said. "The selection has been done purely on merit and in keeping with the provisions of NRAI's Olympic selection ranking policy. This merit based approach has enabled us to field a third specialist shooter in the women's 10m air rifle events as well as go with the two best shooters in women's 25m pistol event," he added.

Seeking Euro tour

The camp is expected to start from April 15 in Delhi. The rifle team had suggested the camp to be conducted in Guwahati and had sent a proposal to the NRAI and SAI but that seems unlikely. Guwahati was being considered, keeping in mind the heat in Delhi.

After the conclusion of the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi, the president had said ensuring that shooters get international competitions is one of his main priorities. Though still far from certain, it is learnt the NRAI is looking to send shooters to Europe for training and a competition.

The said competition is European Championship, which is scheduled to begin from May 20. If everything goes according to the plan, the shooters could possibly land in Croatia, the place where the meet is being held, in first week of May.

EXPRESS READ

Liverpool beat Arsenal in Premier League

LONDON: Liverpool outclassed Arsenal from start to finish in a 3-0 win in the Premier League on Saturday with a brace for substitute Diogo Jota and a nutmeg from Mohamed Salah to revive team's hopes for a top four spot.Jota broke the deadlock in the 64th minute after meeting a cross from Trent Alexander-Arnold to head past Arsenal's Bernd Leno. Four minutes later, Salah cleverly played the ball through Leno's legs as he squatted down to try to block the shot.

Devdutt tests Covid positive, says RCB

BENGALURU: Royal Challengers Bangalore's young batsman Devdutt Padikkal is quarantining at his home since returning positive for Covid-19 on March 22, his IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bangalore said. The 20-year-old was RCB's highest scorer last season with 473 runs from 15 matches. He is only the second uncapped player in IPL's history to score more than 400 runs in debut season.

Women's T20 Challenger likely in Delhi, decision on fourth team soon

VENKATA KRISHNA B @ Chennai

THE Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is planning to host the Women's T20 Challenger in New Delhi in the window between May 24-30 with discussions underway whether to include an extra team or not. The tournament as usual has been slotted during the period where the Indian Premier League reaches the business end with the final likely to be played under lights at the Feroz Shah Kotla.

It is understood that the BCCI even thought of hosting these matches in Ahmedabad alongside the IPL play-offs. But since it is going to be played behind closed doors and the need to create a separate bubble meant, the BCCI had to look at a different city. Delhi, which is hosting only eight IPL matches, has been identified as there won't be any issues with regards to creating a bio-bubble.

The Delhi leg of IPL finishes on May 8, following which the women's teams will assemble in the city, where they will undergo the mandatory quarantine before resuming training. With regards to overseas players' participation, the BCCI is likely to write to other boards to check if they'll be available as Covid-19 numbers are increasing in India.

Smriti Mandhana led Trailblazers to Women's T20 Challenge title in the UAE

The BCCI had plans to increase the number of teams to four this season as it was keen on bringing Australia, New Zealand and England players, but that seems unlikely. Previously, players from Down Under expressed interest to feature in the Women's T20 Challenger, but that hasn't happened over the last couple of years because of different reasons. Last season, it coincided with international commitment with Australian players even making their displeasure known in public.

With no clashes in schedule this time, the BCCI was hopeful of bringing these players, but the house seems divided with regards to their participation. If these players come on board, the BCCI can even look at increasing the number of teams to four, which will only help the tournament grow, but given the Covid-19 complications, whether a new team is introduced this season is remains to be seen. "The idea is to expand the tournament, but this might not be the ideal time. One needs to factor in the increasing Covid-19 numbers. If top players turn up, it will only increase the profile of the tournament, but with so much uncertainty around, if they pull out in the eleventh hour, it will put the whole event in jeopardy. So keeping it to three teams is being seen as the best option," an official in the know told this newspaper.

'Pro League will help India assess skill'

ASHIM SUNAM @ Bengaluru

AFTER spending the majority of last year in their hostel rooms and the training facilities at Sports Authority of India, Bengaluru without any competitive games, the men's national hockey team are gradually getting into the groove with some matches under their belt.

Late February and early last month, India were involved in a Europe Tour where they played Germany and Great Britain. India are now in Argentina, where they are scheduled to play six matches including four practice and two FIH Pro League this month.

India did come up with an impressive performance in the Europe tour, as they did not lose a single game. Considering that the team had last played an international match against Australia in the Pro League in February 2020, the result was considered quite good.

Dhanraj Pillay

It will be interesting to see if they can come up with similar performances against Olympic champions Argentina with the first practice game scheduled on Tuesday. Former India captain Dhanraj Pillay felt these matches would be of importance with the Olympics just four months away.

"These games are very important in terms of Olympics preparation. First thing is, they are playing against tough teams, and you will also come to know where you stand as well. Secondly, you can also assess your strengths and weaknesses. When they go out for such matches, they can see where they are making mistakes, and also analyse the plus points and see how they can play against stronger teams. From there on, they need to work upon their weakness, and improve," said Pillay, who was in the city as chief guest for the five-a-side Chairos Hockey Cup 2021 final.

India have been pooled alongside teams like Australia, Argentina, Spain, New Zealand and hosts Japan. Pillay, however, did not want India to think too much ahead and just concentrate on a game-by-game basis with the objective of topping the group.

"You need to play game by game (in the Olympics), look for full points from the contest. India should look at how they are going to top the pool, which they should think first. After that, they can think of the quarterfinals and so on, which is a different ball game altogether," said Pillay.

Canara Bank clinch Chairos Hockey Cup

Canara Bank beat Team Coorg Gulf 6-5 (3-3 in regular time) via shoot out, to clinch the five-a-side Chairos Hockey Cup at the Field Marshal K.M.Cariappa Hockey Arena here on Sunday. Team Coorg Gulf's Poonacha MG was player of the final while Canara's Pruthvi Raj was awarded the player of tournament.

TEAM WATCH SUNRISERS HYDERABAD — IPL 4 DAYS TO GO

Despite struggling with a string of injuries to key players, Sunrisers Hyderabad managed to get to the play-offs in the 2020 edition of the IPL. The team missed the likes of Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Wridhiman Saha, Mitchell Marsh, Vijay Shankar among others at critical junctures in the competition, but the David Warner led side managed to get to the play-offs for the fifth straight time. Despite being one of the most consistent teams in the league, the team last lifted the title in 2016 and the 2021 edition will be a golden chance for the Orange Army to add a second. When all players are fit and available, Sunrisers can be a fearsome prospect for any opponent.

STRENGTHS

It's a no-brainer that led by David Warner, Sunrisers have one of the most lethal top-order batting line-up in the IPL. The opening partnership between Warner and Jonny Bairstow terrorised many bowling line-ups in 2019. Kane Williamson and Manish Pandey offer a solid spine in the middle. When the team paired Saha with Warner at the top to offer more balance, the Indian wicket-keeper played the role to perfection. The top played a major part in many matches last season. No target is daunting when Warner and Williamson are on song.

WEAKNESSES

One of the glaring weaknesses of Sunrisers has been their middle-order which fell short on many occasions last season. At times when the top order fails, middle-order batsmen have failed to shoulder the responsibility. While the likes of Priyam Garg, Abdul Samad and even Abhishek Sharma pack a lot of potential, they are young and inexperienced. For some time now, Hyderabad have been over-reliant on the likes of Warner, Bairstow and Williamson. The signing of experienced Kedar Jadhav could plug that hole but that is one of Sunriser's Achilles heel which they'll have to address.

THREATS

Do Sunrisers have an able replacement for Bhuvneshwar Kumar? Is there an over-reliance on the pacer? Sunrisers rely a lot on a core group of players and an injury to any of these players could put serious damage to their chances. The team did commendably well in the last edition despite missing key players, but it would be too much to ask to pull off something similar again. The team would hope their regulars stay fit through out.

TEXT BY: MARTIN JOSEPH

SQUAD David Warner (c), Jonny Bairstow (wk), Kane Williamson, Manish Pandey, Shreevats Goswami, Wriddhiman Saha, Virat Singh, Priyam Garg, Mohammad Nabi, Vijay Shankar, Kedar Jadhav, Mitchell Marsh, Jason Holder, Abdul Samad, Rashid Khan, Abhishek Sharma, Shahbaz Nadeem, Siddarth Kaul, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Khaleel Ahmed, T Natarajan, Sandeep Sharma, Basil Thampi, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jagadeesha Suchith.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients (1) MR.ANIL KUMAR CHOWDHARY and (2) MRS.RAJNI CHOWDHARY, intend to purchase the below mentioned **SCHEDULE PROPERTY** from (1) MR.PRAVEEN KUMAR.S, S/o late Sri.M.Shanthilal and (2) MRS.BINDU BAI, W/O Mr.Praveen Kumar S, both are residing at No.86/4, Coles Road, below Canara Bank, Frazer Town, Bangalore- 560 005.

In view of the above, anybody who has any manner of right or interest on the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for the purchase; may file their objections in writing with documentary proof before the undersigned within 10 days from the date of publication of this notice, and if the undersigned does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner, then it shall be presumed that the Schedule Property is free from all sort of encumbrances, claims, mortgages and obligations and my client shall go on with the purchase.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of 1,545/1,24,229 Sq. Ft., which works out to 606 Sq. Ft., of undivided share of right, title and interest and the Residential **Apartment bearing No.104**, present Municipal No.18/2/3, BBMP PID No.76-1-18/2/3, measuring 1,545 Sq. Ft of super built up area, Mosaic Flooring, country Wood Doors/Windows, situated on the 1st Floor, B-Block, in the building known as **"SOMERSET APARTMENT"** constructed on the property bearing Corporation No.18(old No.42), total area measuring to an extent of 48,803 Sq Ft., situated at Mahatma Gandhi Road, and now facing Midford Garden Cross Road, Civil Station, Bangalore 560001

PRABHAKAR L SHETTY, Advocate,
No.6/3, 1st Cross, Kumara Cot Layout, Kumara Krupa Road, Bangalore-560 001.
PH:9448075994

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II BENGALURU
"Jeevan Mangal Building" 1st & 2nd Flr.,No.4, Residency Road, Bengaluru-560 025

O A No. 680 of 2020

BETWEEN: UCO Bank, Jayanagar Branch, Bangalore ...APPLICANT
AND:
Mr. RAMANA REDDY and others ...DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS

SUMMONS ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

Defendant No.1: RAMANA REDDY, S/o. Late Sriram Reddy, R/at No.155/4, Putthanmanthia Building, Chikkabidarkallu, Gangappa Garden, Post Nagasandra, Bangalore-560 073. PAN No. BMGPR3663D

Defendant No.2: Smt. PRAVEENA N, W/o. Sri Ramana Reddy, R/at No.155/4, Putthanmanthia Building, Chikkabidarkallu, Gangappa Garden, Post Nagasandra, Bangalore-560 073. PAN No. CQBPP7810C

WHEREAS the Applicant has instituted an Application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Bank and Financial Institutions Act 1993, against you for the recovery of **Rs. 50,30,149/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Thirty Thousand One Hundred and Forty Nine Only)** together with current and future interest and for other relief. You are hereby summoned to appear & file written statement before this Tribunal at 10.30 a.m. or at such time immediately thereafter according to the convenience of Tribunal on **01-07-2021** to answer the claim.

2. A copy of the Application is enclosed herewith. The copies of the annexure are also enclosed. You are directed to collect the annexure on your appearance before the Tribunal.
3. If you intend to file any documents, you may file the same with a list along with the written statement.
4. You should file your registered address and a memo of appearance when you enter appearance before the Tribunal either in person or by a Pleader/Advocate duly instructed.
5. Take notice that, in default of, your appearance on the day mentioned herein before, the proceeding will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 24th day of March 2021.

Sd/- **Registrar DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, BANGALORE**

BEFORE THE HON'BLE III ADDITIONAL PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT AT BENGALURU

M.C. 6844/2019

BETWEEN: Mrs. Gunasheela .R ...Petitioner
AND
Mr. Suresh .R ...Respondent

SUMMONS BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION TO THE RESPONDENT

Mr. Suresh .R Son of Sri K. Rangaiah, aged about 45 years, R/at: No. 116/A, 2nd Main Road, 1st Cross, Bapujinagar, Mysore Road, Bengaluru-560026.

Whereas, the above named petitioner has instituted the above case, against the respondent for Decree for Divorce of the marriage and such other reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or through a pleader duly instructed before III Additional Family Judge Family Court at Bangalore.

Take notice that in default of your appearance **on the 26th day May 2021 at 11.00 AM,** the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Issue under my hand and seal of the court on 1st day of April 2021.

By Order of the Court, Sheristedar, Family Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Applicant : **Sri KAPIL DIXIT** No.809, 'A' Wing, 8th Floor, Mittal Towers, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE JUDGE, III ADDL.PRL, FAMILY COURT AT MYSURU

OS. NO. 61/2020

Plaintiff : Smt.Syeda Amira Hussaini W/o Mohammad Mustaq.H.S., D/o Syed Jaffer Hussaini, Aged about 28 years, R/at #741, 4th main, Rajivnagar 1st stage, Mysuru-570019

--- Vs. ---

Defendant :Sri.Mohammad Mustaq.H.S. S/o Abdul Saleem Aged about 31 years R/at #258/B, Ward No.22, Ex-Serviceman Colony, C.B.Bellary-583101, Karnataka

Job Address
Mohammad Mustaq.H.S.
S/o Abdul Saleem
#1, Masthan ghori street,
Adambakam, Chennai-600088

Alternate Address
No.22, Neelakanth Apartment,
2nd floor, 8/5, Audree Road,
Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560027

PUBLIC NOTICE UNDER ORDER 5 RULE 20 OF CPC

The plaintiff has filed suit against the defendant seeking relief of dissolution of marriage solemnized on 01.01.2017 at Abdul Wahid Convention Hall, Rajivnagar 2nd stage, Mysuru.

The suit is posted to 24/5/21 and the defendant is required to appear before the Hon'ble Court at **11.00 A.M on 24/5/21** either in person or through his Advocate, failing which the suit will be decided ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this **29th day of March 2021**

Sd/- Advocate for Plaintiffs
Smt.M.S.Savithri Advocate
#8A, Sheshagiri, J block, Ramanamaharshi road, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru-23

By the Order of the court
Chief Ministerial Office
Family Court, Mysuru.

IN THE COURT OF THE 22 ADDL. CHIEF METROPOLITAN MAGISTRATE AT BENGALURU
C. MISC. No. 1248/2021

BETWEEN: Mohammed Irfan & Others ...Petitioners
AND: The Commissioner Registrar of Births & Deaths, B.B.M.P, Bengaluru ...Respondent

PAPER PUBLICATION / PUBLIC NOTICE IN ENGLISH

Whereas the above named petitioners have made petition to this court under section 13(3) of Birth & Death Registration Act, for the grant of Death Certificate in favour of the petitioners in respect of death of Deceased who is Mother to the mother named as **RABIYA BEE, W/o. ABDUL RAHEEM BASHA as she was died on 05.03.2008 at No. 06, 3rd Main, Kushalnagar, Arabic College, Bengaluru 560 045** the said death certificate is required for documentation purpose and to maintain family records statusquo. Interested parties are hereby called to appear in this court in person or by pleader duly instructed on date **26.04.2021 at about 11.00 A. M** informed to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declare as Ex-parte. Given under my hand and seal of the Court this day i.e., at Bengaluru on 23.03.2021.

By order of the court.
Sd/- Sheristedar XXII ACMM Court
Advocate for Petitioners : M.Mamatha, Advocate

GENERAL PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR LOST OF PROPERTY SALE DEEDS

The Public are hereby informed through this **Public Notice** that, my client by name **Mrs. P VIJAYA LAKSHMI (Aadhaar No.5532 5013 7768),** W/o. Mr. Subramanyam, aged about 47 years, Presently Residing at Building/Site No.13, Lakshmi Narayanaswamy Layout, Munnekolalu Village, Marathahalli Post, Bangalore-560037, Karnataka, India. She is the absolute Owner of schedule property described hereunder, she had purchased schedule property from its previous Owner by name **Mrs. Tejashwini N.**

Whereas, my client further declare that, while she was travelling by Auto from aforesaid our residence to Marathahalli Market, Bangalore-560037, carrying a bag containing all the original documents along with below mentioned three Sale deeds as follows :-

a. Registered **original Sale Deed** - vide registered document No.**BAS-1-17903/2004-05**, Book-1, CD No.BASD103, dated: 14.10.2004, registered in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, property purchased by **Mr. O Nagaraju**, in respect of schedule Property.
b. Registered **original Sale Deed** -vide registered document No.**VRT-1-8467/2010-11**, Book-1, CD No.VRTD104, dt.23.03.2011, registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Varthur, Bangalore, property purchased by **Mrs. Tejashwini N**, in respect of schedule Property.
c. Registered **original Sale Deed** - vide registered document No.**VRT-1-5562/2012-13**, Book-1, CD No.VRTD178, dated 24.01.2013, registered in the office of the Senior Sub-Registrar, Varthur, Bangalore, property purchased by **Mrs. P Vijaya Lakshmi**, in respect of schedule Property.

She have **Lost/Misplaced Original Sale Deeds** on 14.02.2021 at around 5.00 pm and after through search/traced has not able to find out/traced out and same has lodge a Police Complaint, Bangalore City Police through online vide **E Lost Report No.1009854, Serial No.088773/2021, dt: 04.04.2021.**

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immoveable residentially property bearing **Building/Site No.13, Katha No.74/1,** presently having **BBMP form No.21747, SI No.767,** situated at Lakshmi Narayanaswamy Layout, Munnekolalu Village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, presently comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike **(BBMP)** limits, Ward No.149, Bangalore and Measuring **East** to **West 37 feet, North** to **South 35 feet**, in all measuring **1295 Sq feet** and together with all rights, appurtenances what so ever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on :-

East by :- Site No.14, West by :- Site No.12, North by :- Road, South by :- Shamanna Reddy's Property

Whereas, my client further declare that, if anybody finds/traced the said original Sale Deed documents, it is requested General Public to Contact and handover to the under Signed or my client immediately and finder will be get Suitably rewarded.

K.V. JAGANNATHREDDY, *B.A, L L B*
Advocate & Notary Public, Govt of India
Office at No.1006, Ground Floor, 7th Main, Chowdeshwari Layout, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037.
Contact (M): **8317531695 / 9449679054**
Date: 05.04.2021 Place: Bangalore

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions. edex Every Monday with THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that **Sri. A. M. Srinivas Prasad and Sri. Jayaram Reddy** of Bengaluru offered to sell the schedule property to my clients for consideration representing that they are the owners and in lawful possession thereof. My clients being desirous to purchase, have instructed me to prepare a Due Diligence Report and meanwhile they are negotiating terms of sale. The scrutiny of documents of title is in progress.

Therefore, if any person, financial institutions or any other persons either having any interest in or opposing the sale of the schedule property to my client, may lodge his/her/it's/their objections or claims with supporting documents with the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication hereof for consideration. It is made clear that objections /claims received thereafter will not considered treating them as waived and thereafter my client will proceed to complete the sale subject to the Due Diligence Report.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing old Sy No. 10 New Sy No.38, duly converted by the Deputy Commissioner, vide Order No. ALN (A & K) S. R. 163/2012-13, dated 13.12.2012, situated at Sonnanayakanapura Village, Kasaba Hoblli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District measuring 4 Acres and bounded on:

East by : Road,
West by : Property belongs to Devi Prasad Varma;
North by : Sy No. 37 belongs to Narayanappa;
South by : Property belongs to Devi Prasad Varma.

PRAKASH T. HEBBAR, Advocate,
SF-17, 2nd Floor, Hameed Shah Complex,
Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru - 560 002.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **NISHI SINGH**, spouse of Ramakant Kumar, resident of Vill- Chainpura, PO- Warisaliganj, Distt- Nawada, Bihar-805130, have changed my name from **NISHI SINGH** to **NISHI KUMARI** vide affidavit no. IN- KA84143100921723T dated 23-03-2021 at Bengaluru, Karnataka.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **ANISHA,** Aged 30 years, W/o. SULEMAN, R/at No. 77/78, 11th Main, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru - 560096. I have changed my name from **ANITHA G. R to ANISHA** Vide affidavit dated 01.04.2021 Sworn before Advocate & Notary B. Chitra, Bangalore

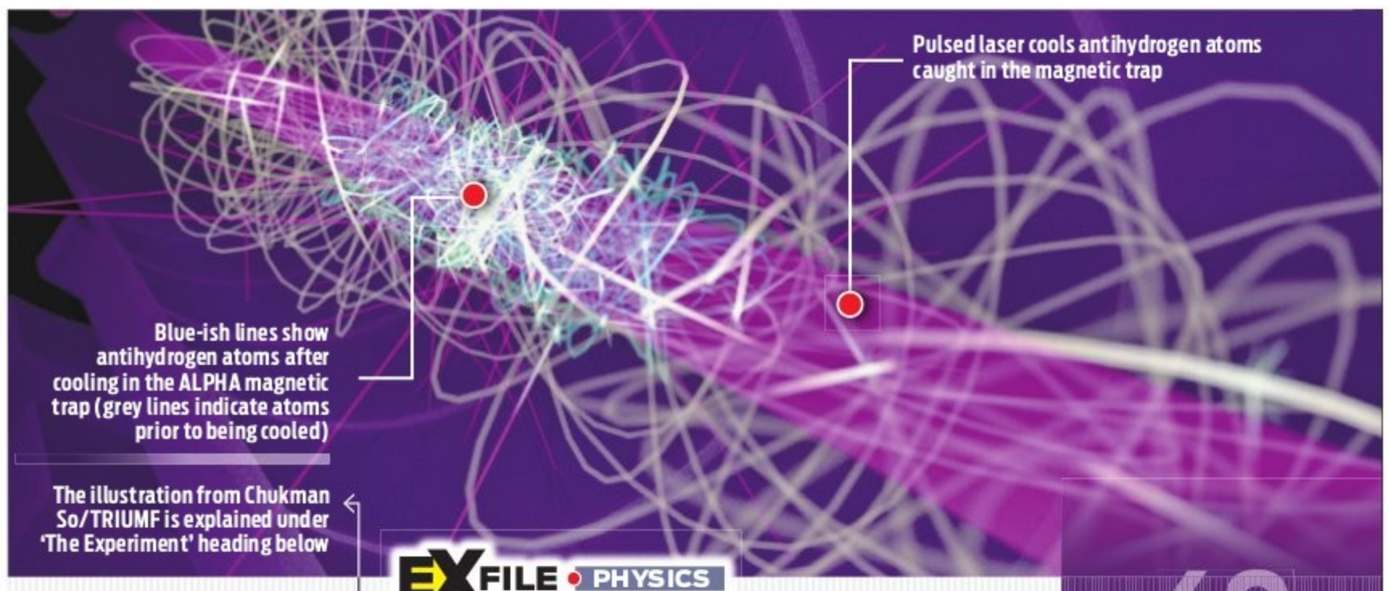
CHANGE OF NAME
I, **Swati R. Morzaria,** D/o Rasik V. Morzaria, aged 43, R/at No.L152, Concorde Silicon Valley, Neeladiri, Road, Electronics City Phase 1, Doddathoguru Post, Electronic City, Bengaluru - 560100, state that I changed my name hitherto from name **Swati Srinivasa Prabhu** to **Swati R. Morzaria** For all official purposes. I declared this in an affidavit on oath to the said effect. From now on and henceforth my name is and shall be known and be called as **Swati R. Morzaria** for all official and practical purposes, vide affidavit dated 03.04.2021, sworn before Advocate Notary Aruna V, regd number 13256, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **C.T.CHENGAPPA,** S/o, Shri.C.B.Thimmayya, R/a, No.275, Kaveri, MIG-SFS 707, 4th Cross, 1st D Main, 4th Phase, Yelahanka New Town, Bengaluru - 560 064, Karnataka, India, have changed my name from **C.T.CHINGAPPA** to **C.T.CHENGAPPA,** vide Affidavit dated:03-04-2021, Sworn before Notary, T.C.Thimmaraja, Bengaluru.

QuoteExpress

DON'T WATCH THE CLOCK; DO WHAT IT DOES. KEEP GOING
› SAM LEVENSON

Libya's interim prime minister on Sunday announced the arrival of the first batch of vaccines against Covid-19, as the war-torn country's crumbling health system struggles against a mounting caseload. The health ministry said in a statement that just over 1,00,000 doses of the Russian Sputnik V jab had arrived in Tripoli.


Pulsed laser cools antihydrogen atoms caught in the magnetic trap
Blue-ish lines show antihydrogen atoms after cooling in the ALPHA magnetic trap (grey lines indicate atoms prior to being cooled)

The illustration from Chukman So/TRIUMF is explained under 'The Experiment' heading below

EXFILE • PHYSICS

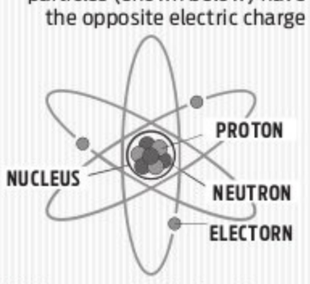
SUPERFREEZING ANTIMATTER

At the beginning of the Universe, matter and antimatter were created in equal amounts following the Big Bang. But billions of years later, antimatter is not around as much as matter and physicists don't know much about it. A group of researchers have, for the first time, used laser light to cool down a sample of antimatter to near-absolute zero, substantially slowing the motion of its atoms and making antimatter easier to study. We explain what all this is about

40 YRS ago, laser manipulation of atoms of matter was introduced. Since then, this application transformed particle physics and enabled Nobel-winning experiments. Laser manipulation is one of the most precise mechanisms of controlling matter

WHAT IS ANTIMATTER

Antimatter is everything that normal matter is except for one crucial difference: Its subatomic particles (shown below) have the opposite electric charge



Matter	Antimatter
Electrons (e^-)	Positrons (e^+)
Protons (p^+)	Antiprotons (p^-)
Neutrons (n)	Antineutrons ($\bar{n}$)

Arch rivals

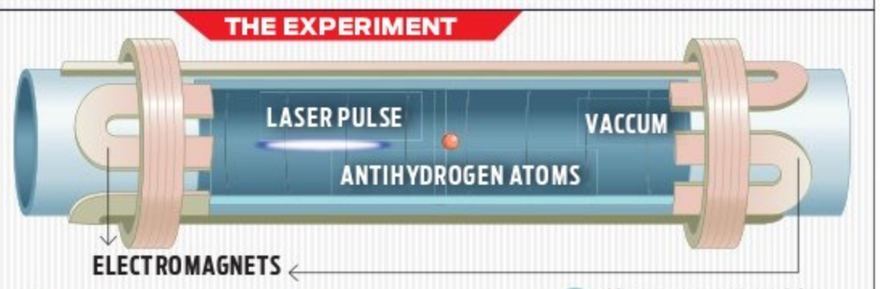
Matter and antimatter cannot coexist with each other at close range; they collide and destroy each other almost immediately, releasing large amounts of pure energy in the form of gamma rays or elementary particles

Outside the rules

Laws of nature do not apply equally to matter and antimatter. Physicists are studying the differences using high-energy subatomic particle collisions at the Large Hadron Collider

THE EXPERIMENT

1 **1,000** Researchers created clouds of around 1000 antihydrogen atoms in a magnetic-field trap, to prevent contact with matter



2 With a special laser, they shot particles of light called photons (at 121 nanometers) to slow down any anti-atoms that are moving towards the laser

3 When the atoms got hit with photons, they absorbed the latter, gained energy and re-emitted them. But in this process, the atoms also recoiled and bounced back

4 After many repetitions of this absorption-emission cycle, the atoms slowed down by a factor of **10.** In temperature equivalency, this cooled them to **0.012 degrees** above absolute zero

Implications of this research

This groundbreaking experiment paves the way to getting more answers about why universe is made up of matter only and what made antimatter rare. Researchers believe an unknown entity interfered in the transformations of particles and antiparticles in the early universe, resulting in the matter-filled physical reality we know today

The physicists

Members of the Antihydrogen Laser Physics Apparatus project at CERN, the particle physics lab, made the antihydrogen atoms with help of the Antiproton Decelerator

TEXT: ARAVINDAKSHAN S

Explorers dive to world's deepest known shipwreck

Vessel exchanged heavy fire in 1944 with largest warship ever built

HISTORY

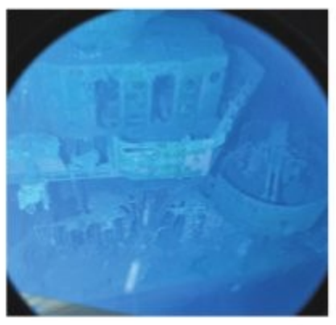
MANILA: A US navy destroyer sunk during World War II and lying nearly 6,500 metres below sea level off the Philippines has been reached in the world's deepest shipwreck dive, an American exploration team said.

A crewed submersible filmed, photographed and surveyed the wreckage of the USS Johnston off Samar Island during two eight-hour dives completed late last month, Texas-based undersea tech frim Caladan Oceanic said.

The 115-metre-long ship was sunk on October 25, 1944 during the Battle of Leyte Gulf as US forces fought to liberate the Philippines -- then a US colony -- from Japanese occupation.

Its location in the Philippine Sea was discovered in 2019 by another expedition group, but most of the wreckage was beyond the reach of their remotely-operated vehicle.

"Just completed the deepest wreck dive in history, to find the main wreckage of the destroyer USS Johnston," tweeted Caladan Oceanic founder Victor Vescovo, who piloted the submersible.



The main wreckage of the USS Johnston resting on the ocean floor off Samar Island in the Philippines | CALADAN OCEANIC VIA AFP

It took fire from the largest warship ever constructed -- the Imperial Japanese Navy battleship Yamato, and ferociously fought back

Parks Stephenson, team navigator and historian Parks

"We located the front 2/3 of the ship, upright and intact, at a depth of 6456 meters. Three of us across two dives surveyed the vessel and gave respects to her brave crew."

Only 141 of the ship's 327 crew survived, according to US Navy records.

The Caladan Oceanic-backed expedition found the bow, bridge and mid-section intact with the hull number "557" still visible.

Two full five-inch gun turrets, twin torpedo racks and multiple gun mounts remain in place, it said.

Team navigator and historian Parks Stephenson said the wreck bore the damage inflicted during the intense surface battle 76 years ago.

"It took fire from the largest warship ever constructed -- the Imperial Japanese Navy battleship Yamato, and ferociously fought back," said Stephenson.

Sonar data, imagery and field notes collected during the dives would be turned over to the US Navy, Vescovo said.

Checking pulse via phone cam

TELEMEDICINE

Researchers have developed a method that uses the camera on a person's smartphone or computer to take their pulse and respiration signal from a real-time video of their face.

The University of Washington-led team's system uses machine learning to capture subtle changes in how light reflects off a person's face, which is correlated with changing blood flow. Then it converts these changes into both pulse and respiration rate. The researchers presented the system in December at the Neural Information Processing Systems conference.

The first version of this system was trained with a dataset that contained both videos of people's faces and "ground truth" information: each person's pulse and respiration rate measured by standard instruments in the field.

The system then used spatial and temporal information from the videos to calculate both vital signs. Researchers have used a personalised machine learning model for each individual to improve accuracy.

Skin tone problem

The new machine learning system is designed to overcome the common problem of AI failing to work correctly on people with darker skin tones

'Life-changer' shot cuts duration of therapy for some cancer patients

MEDICINE

LONDON: An injection that cuts the amount of time breast cancer patients spend in hospital from two and a half hours to as little as five minutes is being rolled out as a new, more effective treatment, NHS England said on Sunday.

Breast cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy will be offered a new combined treatment called PHESGO, which is injected and takes as little as five minutes to prepare and administer, compared with two infusions that can take up to two and a half hours.

More than 3,600 new patients each year are expected to benefit from the faster treatment, as well as others who will switch from the treatment they are on to the single injection, following an NHS deal with the manufacturer. 'This new injection, which can substantially cut treatment time for people with breast cancer, is the latest in a series of changes which have meant the NHS has been able to deliver vital cancer treatment while keeping patients safe from Covid,' said Peter Johnson, NHS national clinical director for cancer.

PHESGO is a fixed-dose combination of pertuzumab with trastuzumab that previously would have been given as separate IV infusions.

The injection will be offered to eligible people with HER2-positive breast cancer, which accounts for 15 per cent of all breast cancers in England, and can be given alongside chemotherapy or on its own.

The five-minute jab significantly cuts the Covid infection risk for cancer patients by reducing the amount of time spent in hospital and frees up time for clinicians in chemotherapy units.

Baroness Delyth Morgan, Chief Executive at Breast Cancer Now, said this more efficient method reduces the burden on hospitals.

FLOWER FARMS

Fields of blooming tulips and hyacinths in the Bollenstreek region in Lisse, The Netherlands | AP

Pope Francis urges Covid vaccines for poor

HEALTH

VATICAN CITY: Pope Francis urged Catholics to remain hopeful in his Easter Sunday address, calling vaccines an "essential tool" in ending the pandemic and urging their swift rollout to the world's poorest countries.

On the holiest holiday for the world's Catholics and the second under the shadow of the coronavirus crisis, the pope focused his message on the world's most vulnerable -- the sick, migrants, people facing economic hardship, and those living in war zones like Syria, Yemen and Libya.

"The pandemic is still spreading, while the social and economic crisis remains severe, especially for the poor," the 84-year-old Argentine said, speaking to a congregation of only around 100 people inside the vast St. Peter's Basilica.

"Vaccines are an essential tool in this fight," he said, calling on the global community to overcome delays in distributing vaccines "especially in the poorest countries". Francis, who has focused on the plight of vulnerable groups since becoming pope in 2013, had already warned rich nations against vaccine hoarding.

FACT OF THE MATTER

Ingenuity finally on Mars surface

SPACE

NASA's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars in preparation for its first flight, the space agency said. The ultra-light aircraft had been fixed to the belly of the Perseverance rover, which touched down on the Red Planet on February 18. "MarsHelicopter touchdown confirmed!" NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory tweeted Saturday. "Next milestone? Survive the night." Ingenuity had been feeding off the Perseverance's power system but will now have to use its own battery to run a vital heater to protect its unshielded electrical components from freezing and cracking during the bitter Martian night.

A passport for being in crowds

HEALTH

Britain is planning to test a series of measures including "coronavirus status certifications" over the coming weeks to see if they can allow people to safely return to mass gatherings at sports arenas, nightclubs and concerts. People will need to be tested both before and after. The trials will also gather evidence on how ventilation and different approaches to social distancing could enable large events to go ahead. Officials are also developing plans to trial Covid-19 passports that are expected to show if a person has received a vaccine, has recently tested negative for the virus, or has some immunity due to having tested positive in the previous six months.

TREASURED WORKS

US museums try to survive by putting art on sale. Critics say they are selling their soul

ART

NEW YORK: American museums hit hard by the pandemic are selling paintings to bridge revenue gaps, with some going further and using the funds to diversify collections, but critics say the sales betray the institutions' mission of preserving artwork for the public.

US museums were only able to sell works, known as deaccessioning, in order to buy back others until April 2020 when the Association of Art Museum Directors (AAMD) lifted the ban for two years to allow institutions to compensate for coronavirus-era losses.

Some museums are seizing the opportunity to renew and diversify their collections but others have been forced to backtrack after opposition from local communities.

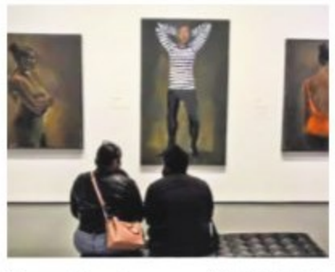
In September, the Brooklyn Museum, already struggling financially before the pandemic, put 12 works, including one Monet and two Dubuffets on sale to raise funds to maintain its collection.

Earlier this year, the director of New York's Metropolitan Museum, Max Hollein, indicated that money raised from the sale of works would be spent covering costs related to collection care such as the salaries of staff.

Hollein played down the significance of the sales and stressed the move is only temporary.

"American institutions have been deaccessioning for decades," he told AFP, adding that the Met had no plans to sell more works in 2021 than it has in previous years.

"We are very versed in doing it, we believe in it, we feel that there is a benefit for our collection, development," Hollein said.



The sale of artworks was already controversial within the museum community. Generally speaking, institutions in Anglo-Saxon countries have been open to controlled sales while museums in Latin culture nations have opposed it.

Serge Lasvignes, president of Paris's Pompidou Center, says he "doubts the value of embarking on this path."

"It's extremely worrisome if the art on the walls turns into a financial asset," said lawyer Laurence Eisenstein, who recently led a revolt against officials at the Baltimore Museum of Art.

The museum hoped to raised $65 million by selling three major works including a Warhol.

The sale was intended to create a preservation fund for the main museum in the city with a predominantly Black population and to "rebalance" its collection by acquiring works by women and minority artists.

In the face of criticism, the museum canceled the plan and opted to raise funds through donations instead.

The Everson Museum of Art, in Syracuse, New York state, sold a Pollock it had been given for $12 million in October.

The museum used the money to diversify its collection but drew ire in some quarters.

"An art museum sells its soul," wrote Wall Street Journal columnist Terry Teachout.

"(It) is using the laudable aim of funding a more diverse collection as an excuse to betray the public trust," he said.

"(It) is using the laudable aim of funding a more diverse collection as an excuse to betray the public trust," he said.

Eisenstein fears that donors and authorities will withdraw financial support from establishments that sell lots of works. "At that point it becomes very difficult for museums to become faithful and trusted custodians of cultural assets."

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS City

Bengaluru Express

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
Mail us: bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com
05.04.2021
MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Wildlife series

The first episode of *The Crocodile Hunter*, a wildlife documentary television series hosted by Steve Irwin and his wife, Terri, was first aired on this day in 1997

POPULARITY

The show became a popular franchise due to Irwin's unconventional approach to wildlife. Steve and Terri spent part of their honeymoon catching crocodiles, which became part of the first episode

VIEWERSHIP

Though *The Crocodile Hunter* was a huge hit in America as well as in Irwin's native Australia, it was viewed in 130 countries around the world and had more than 500 million viewers

HONOUR

Steve Irwin was awarded the Australian Centenary Medal in 2001 honouring him for his service to global conservation and Australian tourism

Shivarajkumar is busy with his next film

PG 4

Passing by

Heart-throb Prince Narula, of *Big Boss*, *Roadies* and *Splitsvilla* fame, was in the city over the weekend. And we spotted him relaxing at a dinner on Saturday night. Narula, who was in namma ooru for a gig, stopped by Gilly's and Kitchens of Punjab on Old Airport Road for some authentic Punjabi food. A good show followed by a hearty meal that included Bhuna Gosht and Charcoal Naan... Now ain't that a good life?

'I WOULDN'T WISH THIS FATE ON ANYONE'

... says comedian Munawar Faruqui, speaking to *CE* about his time in jail, how he has been coping and more

Doing what he does best

Munawar Faruqui's visit to namma ooru may have been brief but it managed to leave an impression on him. "My show was supposed to be for two hours but it went on for two-and-a-half," he says, adding that all Covid-safety precautions were followed. "I performed two shows and received a standing ovation for both."

SIMRAN AHUJA

If things had gone to plan, Munawar Faruqui would have spent his 29th birthday doing something he loves: Making people laugh. And while he was never one for birthdays, spending the day in jail was never on the agenda.

"I wouldn't wish this fate on anyone," says Munawar, who was in Bengaluru on Friday for a show at MLR Convention Centre in Whitefield.

Munawar was arrested on January 1 just before he was about to start his performance at a cafe in Indore. He and others arrested were denied bail by several lower courts. He walked out of jail after the Supreme Court granted him interim bail on February 5.

The 37 days he spent in behind bars for allegedly hurting Hindu sentiments felt much longer. "You feel like an entire day has passed but when you check the time, it's just 9 am. One day is equal to 10 in prison," he says.

While it felt that the hours dragged on in jail, the thoughts in his mind were racing. "No matter how composed you are, 50 things play on in your mind. All at once," Munawar says.

But where sleeping pills failed to address his insomnia after getting out - he's given them up now - there was comfort in comedy. Two weeks after he was released, he was back on stage, doing what he does best.

"What happened in Indore is something I can't forget. But when I perform, the people sitting in front of me have a lot of respect and love for me. And I can see it in their eyes and smiles that they believe I am innocent," says Faruqui, who is consciously choosing to say his bit through the content he puts out on his social media. Cases in point: Short sketches filled with jail puns, funny tweets, and now, a full-fledged song, *Aazmaish*, which came out on March 27. The over four minutes-long song, which also features the artiste Nazz, details the comedian's side of the story and his experience of the ordeal.

But has the incident triggered an internal censor? He answers in a heartbeat: "No. I never intentionally tried to hurt someone's sentiments or cause pain with my words. I don't consider any topic off limits now because my content has always been varied. There are jokes on my childhood, my friends, Bollywood films. There are all kinds of jokes. People might expect political satire but they get so much bonus content too," says Faruqui, who ventured into comedy in 2018, after pursuing a series of jobs such as selling utensils and working as a graphic artist.

> **Performing is all I'm looking forward to right now. I just want to go on stage, do one show today, a bigger one tomorrow**
>
> Munawar Faruqui, stand-up comedian

GRUB HUB

Natasha Celmi, a city-based chef, cookbook author and food blogger, dishes out fun food-related trivia in this weekly series. So, answer these three questions and find out how much of a foodie you are.

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**

The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in CE on Monday. The first prize winner this week will also receive a complimentary food voucher worth ₹2,500 with a set-menu for two at Kebapci, Koramangala**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Nikkei 2) Pastel de Nata 3) Canada

FIRST THREE TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Poonam Iyer
2) Nitasha Bansal
3) Rohit Singh G

****Conditions apply**

CITY READ

Women's Day event at educational institute

IEEE - student branch, Women in Engineering, Affinity Group, Ramaiah Institute of Technology held a three-day event at the end of March to celebrate International Women's Day. The theme was 'Leveraging Women leaders for Managing Paradigm Shifts'. IEEE-WIE is a global body aiming to facilitate the recruitment and retention of women in technical disciplines. The event aimed to facilitate programmes and activities that promote women's entry into and retention in engineering programmes.

A file picture of kids swimming before pools were ordered shut

Pics: MEGHANA SASTRY

SPLASH OF CONCERN

It's a sense of deja-vu for swimming coaches who are up in arms against the government over the order to close down pools again

It feels like the lockdown is haunting us again. If this is the way things are panning out, it's all over for us

- **Nihar Ameen, swimming coach**

SANATH PRASAD

It's past forward again for swimming coaches. Barely a month after the government allowed pools to open to the public, its back to shutdown with the government ordering the closure of pools on Friday. While gyms too were ordered to shutdown, the order was rolled back on Sunday, allowing them to function with 50 per cent occupancy.

It's a big blow to swim centres with coaches hoping that the rising temperatures would attract people and make up for last year's losses. Nihar Ameen, head coach at Dolphin Aquatics, says, "It feels like the lockdown is haunting us again. If this is the way things are panning out, it's all over for us. We cannot take a second blow. I do not have the reserves to pay my staff any longer."

SR Sindia, vice president of Karnataka Swimming Association, says it is unfair that they are being singled out. "When other sectors are given the leeway to operate, why are swimming pools are selectively targeted? I challenge the government to show a single case traced to a swimming centre. Members are actually calling the association to express their anger for not taking any action to keep pools open. The association is definitely taking a strong opposition against the government's order. We will protest if we have to," he says.

Fitness centres had initially called the move to shutdown gyms "illogical" and "senseless" as they were just starting to recover from months of closure. Surendra Kedia founder of Reset, a holistic fitness centre, says, "There is a big misconception that fitness centres increase infection spread. I believe the second wave is far more dangerous. With 50% occupancy, we will tighten the health protocols, sanitise equipment after each use and ensure people maintain physical distancing."

Even so, president of The Karnataka State Gymnasium and Fitness Owners' Association, AV Ravi, plans to submit a letter to Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, requesting a relief package. According to him, close to 3,000 gyms in the state have shut shop due to the pandemic. "We support the government's call to follow strict protocols in gyms. However, livelihoods of many trainers, and gym staff are being lost," he says.

Restaurants too have to run with 50 per cent occupancy. Arun Adiga, managing partner, Vidyarthi Bhavan, says, "We reduced seating by half last Thursday. We are encouraging people to opt for takeaways and tele-booking."

50% seating rule throws Sandalwood in a tizzy

A SHARADHAA

The government's rule on 50 per cent seating capacity in cinema halls – set to kick in on April 7 –has dashed hopes making profit during the festival season, casting a pall of gloom over Sandalwood.

On February 4, the Karnataka government allowed full occupancy in cinemas halls. But two months later, the government has reversed its stand and ordered that cinema halls must function at half capacity from April 7 onwards in eight districts, putting several movies in jeopardy.

The first big-ticket film to fall prey was Puneeth Rajkumar's *Yuvarathnaa*. Directed by Santhosh Anandram, the film opened to a good response, especially from families, on April 1. However, the very next day, the government issued the order limiting the seating capacity in eight districts to 50 per cent. However, after discussions between the government and the makers of Yuvarathnaa, shows full capacity seating has been allowed until April 7.

A still from *Yuvarathnaa*

However, this decision has put other new releases such as Duniya Vijay's Salaga and Sudeep's Kotigobba 3 in a fix. Both films were slated to hit screens in April, but their releases have been delayed. KP Sreekanth, the Salaga's producer, said the film will be released only when the government restores full seating capacity. "We have no option but to wait," he says.

MORE ON P4

OPENS TOMORROW
NEERU'S
THE MOST SPECTACULAR FASHION FIESTA
Come and experience the trendsetting display of stunning designs in bridal wear, haute couture, jewellery, designer wear, fashion accessories and much more.
HI LIFE EXHIBITION PRESENTS
DESIGN LIBRARY
COUTURE | JEWELLERY | ACCESSORIES
Start a new trend with renowned designers from all over India
6 & 7 APRIL
Strict covid protocols followed
TAJ
WEST END BANGALORE
10 am to 8 pm | Valet Parking

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

MANGO MANIA

Head to this restaurant for some mango-flavoured specials such as barfis, sorbets, muffins, tarts and more. **Where:** Refuel, Aloft Bengaluru Cessna Business Park

COLD BREW FEST

Starbucks has announced the Cold Brew Fest that will be on till April 11. Select variants like Cold Brew Black, Nitro Cold Brew Black, Vegan Cold Brew, Nitro Vegan Cold Brew, Cold Brew with Ginger Ale, Nitro Cold Brew with Ginger Ale and more will be **available at** special prices of ₹250 for the Cold Brew range and ₹300 for the Nitro Cold Brew range (including taxes).

STAGE TIME

Watch the play *Janashatru*, which has been written and directed by Kannada playwright, director, and former artistic director of Ranga Shankara, S Surendranath. The play attempts to underscore the importance of being an individual in times of a majoritarian democracy. **When:** April 9, 7.30pm **Where:** Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar

HANDLOOM EXHIBITION

This exhibition will bring together rural weavers from different parts of India, who will display their collections of handloom fabrics, dress materials and sarees. **Where:** Sindhoor Convention Centre, JP Nagar **When:** Till April 11

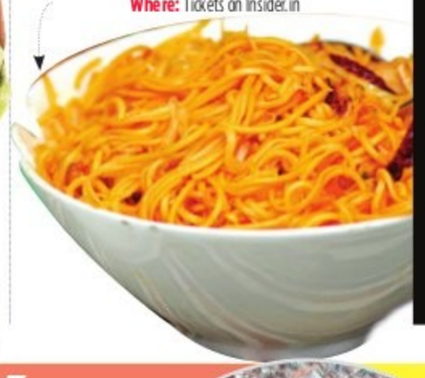
CHOCO TREAT: Indulge in an eggless homemade Chocolate Pudding Parfait, made fresh daily. **WHERE:** Magnolia Bakery at Phoenix Marketcity

Flea market

This Ugadi shopping carnival will feature a range of arts and crafts, clothing, jewellery, home décor, furniture and handicrafts products from exhibitors across India. **When:** Till April 11 **Where:** Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road

Cooking class

This workshop by chef Rakhee Vaswani will teach you how to make a variety of noodles, including Chinese bhel, darsaan noodles, dan dan noodles and mango thai noodle salad with sesame ginger dressing. **When:** April 8, 3.30pm **Where:** Tickets on Insider.in



Flashback

Check out this performance by Usha Uthup, who will recreating India's nightclub era of the '60s and '70s. **When:** April 10, 9pm **Where:** Live on Insider

Ugadi Utsava

Attend this event where different artisans will come together under one roof. The works on display include block printed traditional games from South Karnataka with coins made in Etikoppaka (Andhra Pradesh) and Channapatna (Karnataka), stone home decor work from Salem, and more. **When:** Till April 14 **Where:** Studio Tamaala, JP Nagar

Moods of 2020

Querencia, Eurumme's latest jewellery collection, is all about finding your strength. The collection draws inspiration from founder of Eurumme, Eishita Puri's emotional journey in 2020. **Available at:** eurumme.com

Skincare essentials

Bare Anatomy presents summer skincare essentials like Deep Pore Cleansing Facewash (₹495 for 50 ml), Intense Hydrating Moisturizer (₹695 for 30 ml) and Overnight Restorative Night Cream (₹755 for 45 g). **Available at:** www.bareanatomy.in

QUICK FIX

What's cooking

IN YOUR KITCHEN?
We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

SPICY PEANUT MUNCH

INGREDIENTS

- **Raw peanuts:** 250 g ■ **Chilli powder:** 2 tbsp ■ **Salt:** 3/4 tbsp
- **Gram flour or rice flour:** 2 tbsp ■ **Asafoetida:** a pinch ■ **Oil** for frying

METHOD

- In a wide bowl, mix together chilli powder, salt, flour and asafoetida with a little water to make a thick paste.
- Add the peanuts and mix well, so that all nuts are coated evenly, sprinkling water if necessary. Spread out the coated nuts on a tray and allow to dry for 15 minutes.
- Heat oil in wok and deep-fry the coated nuts in hot oil. You can also microwave till crisp (2-3 minutes). Cool and store the snack.

— Chitra Ramachandran, Bengaluru

FIT BIT

ADHO MUKHA VIRASANA

(DOWNWARD FACING HERO POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'Adho' implies down, 'mukha' means face, 'vira' means hero, and 'asana' means posture. Here, the body moves downwards while keeping in mind the flow of energy or prana. It is an excellent counterpose following chest opening asanas and can be used as a recovery position throughout a challenging sequence. Therapeutic applications include releasing the spine, helping to alleviate lower back pain, and shoulder opening. People with stiffer bodies can experience the sensation of spine lengthening that will eventually evolve with forward bends while practising this asana. It creates space in the spine (particularly the lumbar spine) without coming up against any potential resistance from tight hamstrings.

STEPS

- Kneel down. Inhale, and bring the knees close to each other. Sit down taking the hips towards the floor.
- Keep your feet slightly wider than your hips, while the ankles and the toes touch the floor.
- Extend the spine straight and bring the shoulders down.
- Place the hands on the thigh. Take four breaths, seated in Virasana.
- Inhale and raise the arms above your head extending the torso. Exhale and go forward, stretching the arms on the floor while resting the chest, face, abdomen towards the floor.
- Using the abdominal muscles and the lower back muscles, stretch deeper, exhale completely.
- Flexing the knees, ankles, quadriceps and hips, feel spine tighten initially.
- Inhale, loosen the body. Exhale, go deeper with the forward stretch. Remain here for about 5 breaths.
- Inhale and raise the head up first, then arms, shoulders, chest, abdomen and hips to come back in Virasana with complete exhalation.
- Release and relax.

BENEFITS

- Stretches and opens the hips, thighs and the legs.
- Stretches and expands the back and spine.
- Acts as a restorative pose for the hip and back muscles.
- Pressure created at the stomach and abdominal muscles helps in digestion.
- Relaxes the muscles and calms the mind.
- Normalises circulation of blood throughout the body.
- A great way to relax when troubled with restless leg syndrome.
- Good pose to prevent arthritis at the knee and ankles.

LIMITATIONS

- Those who have injured knee or ligament tear avoid this.
- People with very weak hips or lower back muscles, should first practise Virasana.
- Women at later stages of pregnancy should avoid this.

— by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

SMARTLESS
SmartLess with Jason Bateman, Sean Hayes and Will Arnett is a podcast that connects and unites people from all walks of life to learn about shared experiences through thoughtful dialogue and organic hilarity.
- On Spotify

THE PARTY IN MY PLANTS
This podcast features episodes on an array of topics such as plant-based eating, healthy cooking, fitness, digestion, meditation, weight loss, healthy travel, , beating anxiety and cohabiting with non-healthy people.
- On Stitcher

START-UP STORIES
Jonathan Moules talks to entrepreneurs about building successful brands, giving birth during a funding round, and rebuilding a reputation in the wake of bankruptcy.
- On Spotify

22 YARNS BY GAURAV KAPUR
A podcast for cricket lovers from around the world, captained by Gaurav Kapur alongside a wide variety of cricket journalists, analysts, players, and retired cricket legends who will dig into cricket's most beautiful stories and anecdotes from both on and off the field.
- On Apple Podcasts

NAAN CURRY
In the Naan Curry podcast, MasterChef India finalist Sadaf Hussain and researcher Archit explore the rich heritage of food in India — one dish at a time. The conversation is seasoned with enjoyable anecdotes and gives a historical perspective on the evolution of food in the country.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

KALYANA VAIBHOGAM
A simple man with strong traditional values falls in love with a woman and they decide to get married. Problems arise when the groom and the bride's father have a difference of opinion about marriage.
- Cast: Ramki, Vadivelu, Kushboo, VK Ramasamy

RAAM
Raam, a final year B.E student studying in Ballari, visits his joint family in Mysuru during a vacation break. His cousin is set to be married, but she loves another man. Raam helps his cousin marry the man of her choice.
- Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Priyamani

AIYANNA
Aiyanna is a good Samaritan living with his wife and caring brother. However, when he and his wife are murdered by a gang of criminals, his brother decides to take revenge.
- Cast: Darshan, Namitha

HUBLI
An unidentified person is badly injured but is saved by an ex-serviceman and his daughter. He recovers slowly but loses his memory.
- Cast: Sudeep, Rakshita

Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 AN HONEST HISTORY OF AN ANCIENT AND "NASTY" WORD BY KATE LISTER
With candor and cunning, sex historian Kate Lister chronicles the curious journey of an ancient, honest word with innocent origins and a now-scandalous connotation in this uproarious love letter to etymology, queens, cows.

2 THE ELECTRICAL BLUEPRINTS THAT ORCHESTRATE LIFE BY MICHAEL LEVIN
Sharing unforgettable and groundbreaking footage of two-headed worms, biologist Michael Levin introduces us to xenobots — the world's first living robots, created in his lab by cracking the electrical code of cells — and discusses what this discovery may mean for the future of medicine, the environment and even life itself.

3 LANGUAGE AROUND GENDER AND IDENTITY EVOLVES (AND ALWAYS HAS) BY ARCHIE CROWLEY
Sociolinguist Archie Crowley deconstructs three common myths around language, demonstrating how it's a fluid system that naturally evolves in the direction of inclusion.

4 THE SEEDS OF CHANGE HELPING AFRICAN FARMERS GROW OUT OF POVERTY BY ANDREW YOUN
Meet Therese Niyonsaba, a Rwandan farmer who shares how the program helped her family prosper, and learn more about One Acre Fund's goal to lead a farmer-focused green revolution and reach 6.8 million families by 2026.

5 HOW TO MAKE PROFIT WHILE MAKING A DIFFERENCE BY AUDREY CHOI
Can global capital markets become catalysts for social change? According to investment expert Audrey Choi, individuals own almost half of all global capital, giving them (us!) the power to make a difference by investing in companies that champion social values.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

MUNDINA NILDANA (Kannada)
The film takes you along on the journeys of three young professionals who are on the road to achieve their dreams and goals. In the process they make many discoveries about themselves and learn about relationships, friendship and love.
Cast: Praveen Tej, Radhika Narayan, Ananya Kashyap
- Watch on: Netflix

MAARA (Tamil)
When Paaru sees a fairy tale she heard from a stranger as a child painted across the walls of a coastal town, she goes in search of the man who painted it.
Cast: Shraddha Srinath, R Madhavan, Abhirami Sshivada
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

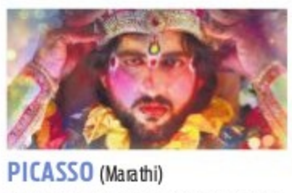
PARAMATHMA (Kannada)
Param is a rich young man who falls in love with Deepa. He soon discovers that his friend Sanvi is in love with him and tries to clear the air between them.
Cast: Puneeth Rajkumar, Deepa Sannidhi, Anant Nag, Aindrita Rey
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar

U TURN (Kannada)
A journalist tries to hunt down the truth behind a strange crime after she crosses paths with a cop. But in an unfortunate twist of events, she becomes the prime suspect of a murder investigation.
Cast: Roger Narayan, Shraddha Srinath, Dileep Raj
- Watch on: Netflix

SHAADI MUBARAK (Telugu)
Shaadi Mubarak is a romantic drama that revolves around a couple who fall in love with each other, in spite of the hurdles in their path, and must deal with the choices they make and the consequences that await them.
Cast: Drishya Raghunath, Sagar, Rajashree, Ajay Ghosh
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

VARATHAN (Malayalam)
After losing his job, Aby and his wife, Priya, move back to the latter's family estate in Kerala. However, things go from bad to worse for the couple as they encounter a new set of challenges.
Cast: Fahadh Faasil, Aishwarya Lekshmi, Dileesh Pothan, Arjun Ashokan
- Watch on: Disney+Hotstar



PICASSO (Marathi)
Picasso is a story about fathers and sons, hope and dreams - of life imitating art, and how art can heal lives.
Cast: Prasad Oak, Ashwini Mukadam, Samay Tambe
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

ENGLISH

TENET
A secret agent is given a single word as his weapon and sent to prevent the onset of World War III. He must travel through time and bend the laws of nature in order to be successful in his mission.
Cast: Robert Pattinson, John David Washington, Elizabeth Debicki, Aaron Taylor-Johnson
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

TIME
Entrepreneur Fox Rich spends the last two decades campaigning for the release of her husband, Rob G. Rich, who is serving a 60-year prison sentence for a robbery they both committed in the early 1990s in a moment of desperation.
Cast: Rob Rich II, Fox Rich, Freedom Rich
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

THE PEANUT BUTTER FALCON
A man with down syndrome runs away from a residential nursing home to pursue his dream of becoming a wrestler. Later, he meets with an outlaw who becomes his friend and coach.
Cast: Shia LaBeouf, Dakota Johnson, Zack Gottsagen, Thomas Haden Church
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video

JUDY
Thirty years after starring in "The Wizard of Oz," beloved actress and singer Judy Garland arrives in London to perform sold-out shows at the Talk of the Town nightclub. While there, she reminisces with friends and fans and begins a whirlwind romance with musician Mickey Deans, her soon-to-be fifth husband.
Cast: Renee Zellweger, Finn Wittrock, Jessie Buckley, Rufus Sewell
- Watch on: Mubi

SUBSCRIPTION

Prime Video: ₹ 129 per month
Mubi: ₹ 499 per month
Disney+Hotstar: ₹ 399 per year

DRAWING THE LINE

Indonesian cartoonist Jitet Kustana, whose work mostly revolves around environmental issues, speaks to *CE* about the future of cartoons and his mantra to be a better cartoonist

Every artist should have an individual style. Even without a signature, people should be able to guess the artist. That [individuality and recognition] comes with practise and consistency

Jitet Kustana, cartoonist

MONIKA MONALISA

ALTHOUGH he has been in the profession for over three decades, Indonesian cartoonist Jitet Kustana does not take his craft for granted. He believes artists must be able to leave an impression on viewers through their individual style. As for Kustana's style, you can discover it at an exhibit of his work at the Indian Cartoon Gallery on Midford Garden Road. It will be on until April 24.

Kustana says that while cartooning requires a certain knack, only practise and consistent effort will make you a good one.

"Every artist should have an individual style. Even without a signature, people should be able to guess the artist. That [individuality and recognition] comes with practise and consistency," he says. Another crucial ingredient of a good cartoon, in Kustana's view, is compassion, which he believes can give an artist better perspective.

Ask him what his thoughts are on the problems that plague the world, and he says, "If we talk about the problems of the world, I could only show the story from one side. That's how a cartoonist can give a personal touch to his (or her) work."

He is keen on travelling and meeting fellow artists across the world through his exhibition.

Kustana, who is known for his work on environmental issues, says cartooning is his way of expressing himself. "Cartoons are a very effective visual and universal language to send a message. Environmental damage continues. Pollution is getting worse, war continues to occur in various countries, the impact of war on children, the impact of all that for future generations... Cartoons kind of remind us of these problems," explains Kustana, whose first cartoon was published by Indonesian newspaper Suara Merdeka in 1987.

A cartoonist's job is to bring out truth through art, and it's up to people decide what to make of it. Being a freelance cartoonist helps keep individuality intact, he says, but immediately warns that freelancing is not the easiest way to go about it.

"I am my own boss and employee, and have to determine my work hours. Every day I have to record ideas. Sometimes I even wake up from a nap to remember the ideas in my dreams," he says.

The future of cartoons as an art form will be quite competitive, he believes. "One of the main reasons for it is technology. Because of the constant flow of information, cartoon ideas are increasingly emerging," he adds.

Housing a new look

PAIRED WITH PANACHE
Anuja Pandey

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted our living spaces and has led to re-imagination of spaces to meet the demands of a new lifestyle. The change of decor brings about an increase in productivity and improved Zen energy in the house. With cases surging, people are choosing to seek refuge indoors again. And this calls for an increased interest in redecorating. According to Runa Sikdar, designer and director, White Space - Innovating Designs & RS Designs, India & Europe, "Design has many languages, but a few are timelessly trendy." So if you are looking to do up your house, here are some trends to keep in mind:

1. Use cosy sofas for a 'hygge' vibe
2. Art pieces on walls can add character | Pic: White Space - Innovating Designs & RS Designs
3. Consider furniture with metal work| Pic: Twiggr Studio

Maximalism

People are opening their arms and embracing the 'more is more' aesthetic. Restricted travel means reminiscing about earlier trips. So a space with decor and items from various parts of the world can give a happy vibe. Neutrals that have been there for long are now paving way for experimental colours and hues. Putting up art pieces on walls, or many small décor pieces on the coffee table, or a mix of textures can also give character. So keep adding on since many stories in one space is now in vogue.

Hygge

This concept focuses on creating joy and contentment in everyday life. Achieve it through cosy sofas, good books and windows overlooking greenery.

Earthy tones

Staying close to nature can have many benefits. Shades of green and brown are warm and reassuring. "Having a balcony converted to a personal spa space may be a great idea for all who seek meditative benefits to combat stress," suggests Sikdar.

Mixing the textures

Juxtaposing varying textures gives a place an interesting look. Marrying two aesthetics is fun and creates a more free vibe since the design is not confined. Surbhi Jaipuria, managing partner, Twiggr Studio, a home decor brand, says, "A new trend is the use of pastel colours, and mixing and matching materials to create something unique. For furniture, look at clean lines, with a lot of metal work."

Vintage

Vintage decor is evergreen and elegant. It involves the use of real antique furniture and art pieces. A vintage piece has a story of its own. And since a home tells your story, don't shy away from flashing your grandmother's silver box of paan or a heirloom trunk.

(The author is a social media influencer)

CITY READ

B'luru-based brand launches new unit

On World Idly Day, fresh food brand iD Fresh Food announced the launch of an idly and dosa batter preparation and packaging plant in Anekal, Karnataka. The Bengaluru-based brand has made an investment of close to ₹40 crore to set up the facility which will be spread across an area of 80,000 sq ft.

Institute inaugurates PG programme

The inauguration of the class of 2021-23 of the post graduate programme in enterprise management at Indian Institute Management Bangalore was held recently. Dipesh Shah, managing director at Samsung Research India Bengaluru, and Vinod Nair, co-founder and director, Enzen Global, were the chief guests. The batch comprises 75 individuals, including nine women, from diverse professional backgrounds.

Brawl Stars: No bawling here

ARE YOU GAME?
Anusha Ganapathi

(This economics graduate spends her leisure time preparing for the zombie apocalypse)

Reader, I know you are knowledgeable. You may already know of Pavlov's theory of classical conditioning. I believe you are smart enough to recognise a stimulus when you encounter it. Brawl Stars is mine. It's a free, online-multiplayer mobile game. Everything about Brawl Stars makes me happy. It took a week, and I have willingly succumbed. The sounds of the trophies adding up to my name gives me joy. My jaw unclenches. My mouth smiles. My eyes widen. Opening a Brawl Box provides me with such an optimistic curiosity, for I know it can never disappoint. I love Brawl Stars. And it has only been a week.

"But Anusha, you WILL get bored of it at some point." NO. I mean, probably. But that's thinking too far ahead. Matchmaking is instant, games are short, and there are multiple different modes to win over. Most importantly — there are dozens of different Brawlers to unlock. You will also want to gain mastery over them, because they are each like different ice-cream flavours, but with unique powers and ultimate weapons. You will also want to keep playing. Brawl Stars has a trophy-based progression. You win, you get tokens and trophies, and then you gain points. You use points to upgrade your Brawlers, and then you try them out again. Like ice-cream toppings. They know how to lure you.

"But Anusha, your bubble will burst when you hit a paywall". Ah yes. A well-made, free-to-download game is but an illusion. But Brawl Stars lets you have your fill. You can play hours of it before ever having the temptation of buying a Brawl Pass. The feeling will pass. You will continue unlocking more Brawlers through trophies, upgrade with nothing but continuous play and practice, and win games with your skill for hours to come.

"But Anusha, remember PUBG?" What is fear, if not mistakes of the past persevering? PUBG Mobile was toxic. They made you play for a whole 25 minutes, only for a dude in a green suit to hit you on the head with a pan. 25 minutes, only for an arbitrary blue line to cause you intense hurt. Brawl Stars isn't like that. It's bite sized. So, you don't feel sad when you lose, because you'll already be done with another round where you WIN. I give Brawl Stars a rating of all my stars.

READY TO MAKE SOME POTIONS?

In Potion Explosion, you are a wizard trying to ace a potions exam and you have to make the best concoction. Will you get all the right ingredients?

WHAT'S NEW?

Robinson Crusoe: Collector's Edition

It is one of the most popular cooperative games around and has been the crown jewel of Portal Games' catalogue for almost a decade. So, when word broke that Portal was releasing a souped-up Collector's Edition with upgraded components and all-new scenarios, it was well-received to put it mildly!

After the Empire

The game is set in the Middle Ages, and tasks players with managing and defending their medieval lands from frequent assaults and invasions. This is a fairly new game that came to my attention recently, partly because of its clever gameplay but also because of its stunning components.

PLAY ON
Arjun Sukumaran

(Arjun is a gamer, book lover and an all-round renaissance man)

IN Potion Explosion, you and up to three other players are student wizards taking your final potions examination in an extremely-familiar-yet-legally-distinct magical university. In order to win, you'll have to craft the best potions you can as quickly as you can while everybody else races to do the exact same thing. Potions require a variety of ingredients, however, and the only way to get them is by trying to coax them out of the ingredient dispenser.

The central gimmick of Potion Explosion also happens to be its most crucial feature — the 'dispenser' is a wonderfully-crafted 3D centerpiece that provides multiple channels for the marbles to roll down. On your turn, you'll pluck out any one marble in any row, causing the ones above it to roll down. If any marbles of the same colour happen to roll into each other, you get to take all marbles of that colour (this is called an 'explosion' in game terms, but it's a good thing!). If you trigger more explosions after the first, you get to take those marbles too! But what are these marbles for? Well, each potion requires a different combination of ingredients, and each of you will only be able to work on any two potions at a time. So yes, it's great that you managed to get all those black marbles through those explosions...but if your potions don't need black, you've got nowhere to actually put them (you can only hold three marbles in reserve; as for the rest, you use them or you lose them) and that sort of misstep can cost you the game.

For sheer satisfaction, Potion Explosion simply can't be beat. It is one of the most tactile games I've ever come across and, as its entire premise is based on getting ingredient marbles out of that dispenser, you'll get to enjoy that aspect of the game on every single turn. But, it isn't just about playing with marbles — if you don't use your potions well, you'll be left in the dust. Every game will contain six unique potion types and, once a potion is brewed, you can drink it at any time in order to gain a special one-time power. This potion might let you steal ingredients from an opponent's reserve, while that one just lets you take any two adjacent marbles from the dispenser. The variability of setup as well as strategy offered by these potions give Potion Explosion staying power that would be the envy of many rivals.

Match-3 games are so popular because they simply scratch a mental itch for a lot of people — they're the gaming equivalent of popping bubble-wrap, you might say. Potion Explosion is a wonderful game for many reasons — the presentation, the little details, the varying potion effects, and so on - but the most important one is that it aims to add tactile enjoyment to the established match-3 formula; and it does so with wonderful aplomb.

'50 PER CENT OCCUPANCY WILL ALSO ATTRACT VIEWERS'

Despite the new order from the government, *Krishna Talkies* and *Rewind* will release as per schedule on April 16; big-ticket films like *Salaga* and *Kotigobba-3* will wait it out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

KOTIGOBBA 3 producer Surappa Babu, said, "Going by the current situation, we are not sure if cases will come down any time soon. Adu ondu Brahme. (It is foolish to think numbers will go down any time soon). This virus is something which will keep playing in everybody's life for some time. It has become part of a body system. The best way to lead our life is by taking the vaccine. As for the release of *Kotigobba 3,* we will now wait for the government to bring back 100 percent seating capacity."

Also in the pipeline are Shivarajkumar's *Bhajarangi 2,* which had a May 14 release, and Yash-starrer *KGF Chapter 2,* which is slated for July 16. However, it is not yet known if these schedules have changed.

Small and medium budget films too will be hit hard. As per the original plans, films such as *Krishna Talkies* starring Ajay Rao, Suraj Gowda's directorial debut Ninna Saihake, actor Thej's debut *Rewind*, and Samarth Naik's suspense thriller *Moksha,* were among half a dozen films which had confirmed releases on April 16 - around the festive week of Ugadi.

However, after the government's announcement, a couple of filmmakers have delayed the release, a few have stuck by the original date, and some filmmakers are yet to take a call.

Krishna Talkies will be the first film of Ajay Rao to release post-pandemic, and director Vijay Anand says that they had already pushed the release date from April 9 to April 16. Since promotional activities are going on full swing, they are okay with the new rule. "April 16 is a comfortable date, as we don't foresee any big films coming ahead. 50 percent occupancy will also attract the people, who will come and watch the film without fear of cinema halls being crowded and will help them to maintain distance," he says.

The film, produced by Govindaraju A H Aluru is distributed by Jagadish Films and stars Apurva as the heroine.

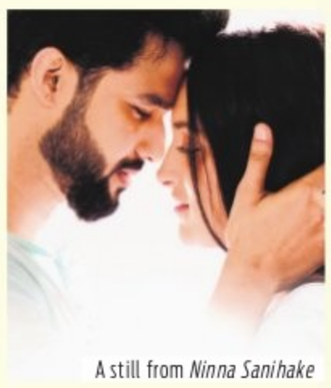
However, actor Suraj Gowda, who is making his directorial debut with *Ninna Sanihake,* has decided to postpone the release. "Our intention to make a film is to entertain the audience, and our movie will not serve any purpose if people don't turn up. We hope to release in May, depending on the situation, and if Covid cases drop," says Suraj.

Despite having 50% occupancy, *Rewind* will hit screens on April 16 as promised, says actor and director Thej. "That's because we have already accomplished the primary promotions of the movie in and around Karnataka, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Kerala. If we reconsider, the change will affect release dates in other states as well. As it is a medium budget movie, we believe that we can recover costs even if we have 50% occupancy. Moreover, there are many movies ready for release and someone has to face this challenge either now or later for a better healthy society. We feel we should handle this situation gracefully, respecting the challenges of the state administration," he says.

Meanwhile, the makers of *Moksha* starring Tarak Ponnappa and Mohan Dhanraj are in a dilemma, unsure of whether to release the film on April 16 as scheduled or delay it.

A still from *Rewind*

A still from *Krishna Talkies*


A still from *Ninna Sanihake*

Sudeep in a still from *Kotigobba 3*

A still from *Salaga*

Sakumtumba Sametha, directed by Rahul PK and bankrolled under Rakshit Shetty's home banner, has completed shoot and is now in the post-production stage

Popular wedding invite line turns title for Paramvah Studios' next movie

CE FEATURES

SANDALWOOD film buffs were in for a pleasant surprise on Sunday. The first look poster of Paramvah Studios' next project #SakutumbaSametha, directed by Rahul PK was unveiled recently. "Pour in your love & good wishes, (sic)." This was actor Rakshit Shetty tweet as he gave updates about his next project, bankrolled under his production house.

"*Sakutumba Sametha*, a very popular line on wedding cards, is the title of this film, which is a family drama comedy revolving around an engagement break up," says director Rahul, who is co-written the story with Pooja Sudhir.

The film introduces Bharath CB and Siri Ravikumar in the lead, along with Achyuth Kumar, Krishna Hebbale, Pushpa Belavadi, Rekha Kudligi, and Jayalaxmi Patil. "We went on floors with this film in February and have completed the shooting. Now, we are in the post production stage," says Rahul, adding, "We are yet to fix a release date, and decide whether it will see an OTT release or hit the silver screen."

Having written The Seven Odds together, Rahul has also worked as an associate director in *Ulidavaru Kandanathe, Ricky* and *Kirik Party.* The director was part of Rishab's anthology, *Katha Sangama.* However, *Sakutumba Sametha* will be his first independent feature film.

Produced by Gupta, the film has two DOP's -- Karm Chawla and Sandeep Valluri. The music is scored by Midhun Mukundan

SET FOR 123RD FILM, SHIVARAJKUMAR JOINS SETS OF VIJAY MILTON'S FILM

CE FEATURES

SHIVARAJKUMAR is currently busy shooting with director Vijay Milton's project, which is tentatively titled *Shivappa.* The action-packed commercial entertainer, featuring an ensemble cast, has completed 35 days of shooting. The team, which has begun the second schedule, plans to complete the picture in the next 45 days.

A couple of pics from the film sets, revealed by the team, sees the Century Star in conversation with the *Dia* hero, Pruthvi Ambaar. The first 10 days will have the director covering the talkie portions, which will go on till April 10. It will be followed by a massive climax shoot between Shivarajkumar and Dhananjay, preparation for which is currently going on. This is the second time the two are coming together after *Tagaru.* "Post this, we will plan an introduction fight," says producer Krishna Sarthak.

Shivanna's 123rd project features the south Indian heroine Anjali, and Yasho Shivakumar in the female leads, along with senior actors Shashikumar and Umashree. Anoop Seelin is scoring the music.

Shivarajkumar and Pruthvi Ambaar

Shraddha Kapoor to star in *Chaalbaaz In London*

CE FEATURES

Shraddha Kapoor will essay a double role for the first time in *Chaalbaaz in London*. The upcoming reboot will be helmed by Pankaj Parashar, who had directed the 1989 film *Chaalbaaz,* starring Sridevi.

Chaalbaaz in London is being co-produced by T-Series and Paper Doll Entertainment. The film will be shot over an extensive schedule in London. The makers are finalising the actors for the other parts.

Speaking about the film, Shraddha shares, "I feel blessed and fortunate that the makers thought of me for *Chaalbaaz In London*. This will be my first ever double role and it will definitely be challenging for any actor. Although there's a huge responsibility on me, I'm happy that (producers) Bhushan (Kumar) sir and Ahmed (Khan) sir feel that I will be able to pull it off."

Chaalbaaz (1989) starred Sridevi as twin sisters Anju and Manju. Poles apart in nature, they end up switching places and resolving a complicated plot. The film also starred Sunny Deol and Rajinikanth.

Shraddha Kapoor

John Abraham's next production to star Harshvardhan Rane, Angira Dhar

Harshvardhan Rane and John Abraham

Actor-producer John Abraham's upcoming production, *Tara vs Bilal* is set to star Harshvardhan Rane and Angira Dhar.

John, who was recently seen in Mumbai Saga, has produced films like *Vicky Donor, Madras Cafe,* among others under his banner JA Entertainment.

In an interaction with PTI, John said, "We are starting a film called *Tara vs Bilal*, we are producing it. It is a beautiful slice-of-life film. It stars Harshvardhan Rane and Angira Dhar. It starts either this month or in May. It is directed by Samar Shaikh.'

Meanwhile, on the acting front, Abraham has Yash Raj Films' Pathan and Mohit Suri-directed *Ek Villain Returns.* While the actor did not divulge any details about the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer, he said, ''Working with Mohit Suri has been a dream. I have just come from the shoot. Every moment has been fantastic."

— PTI